KEEP STRONG

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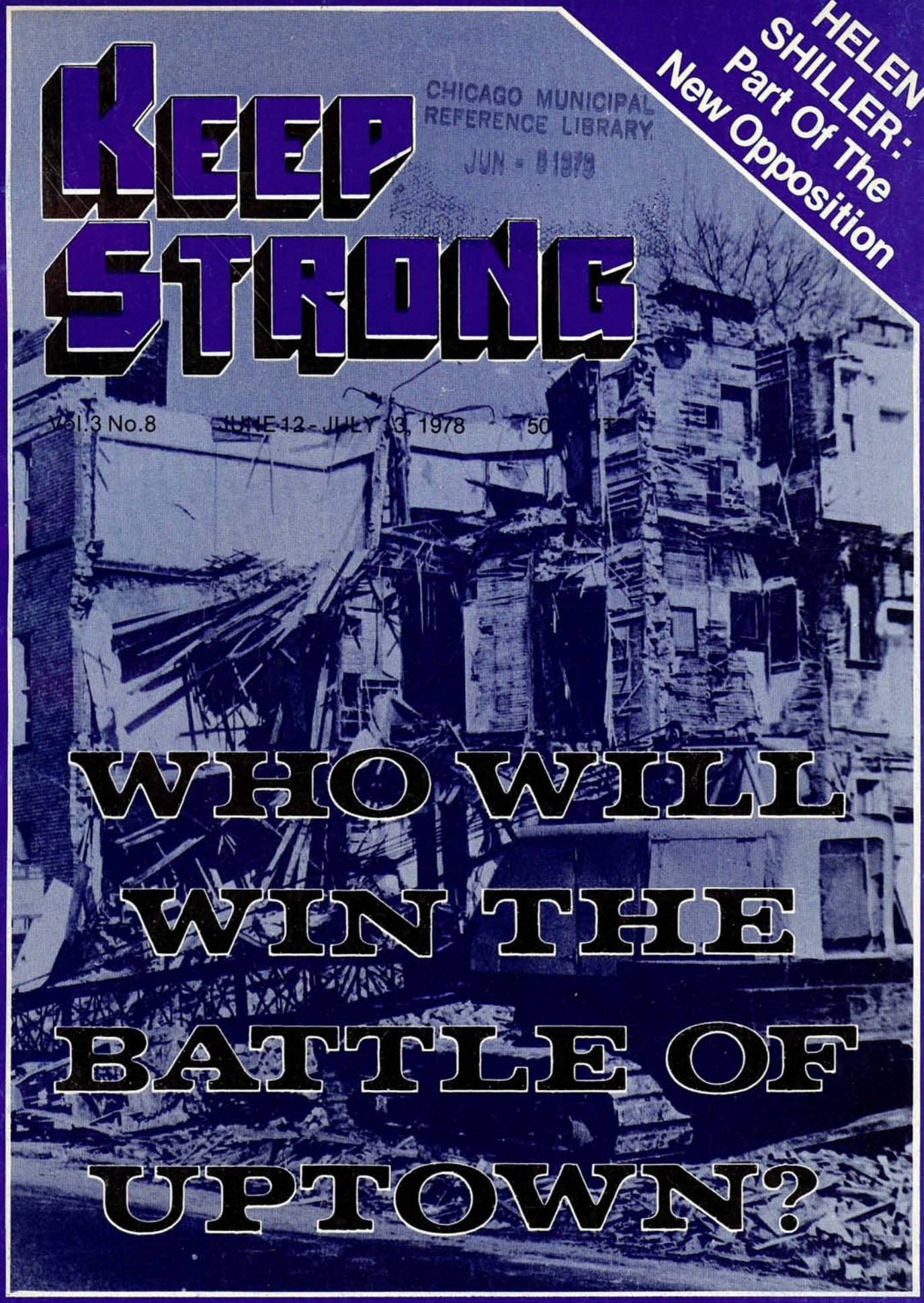
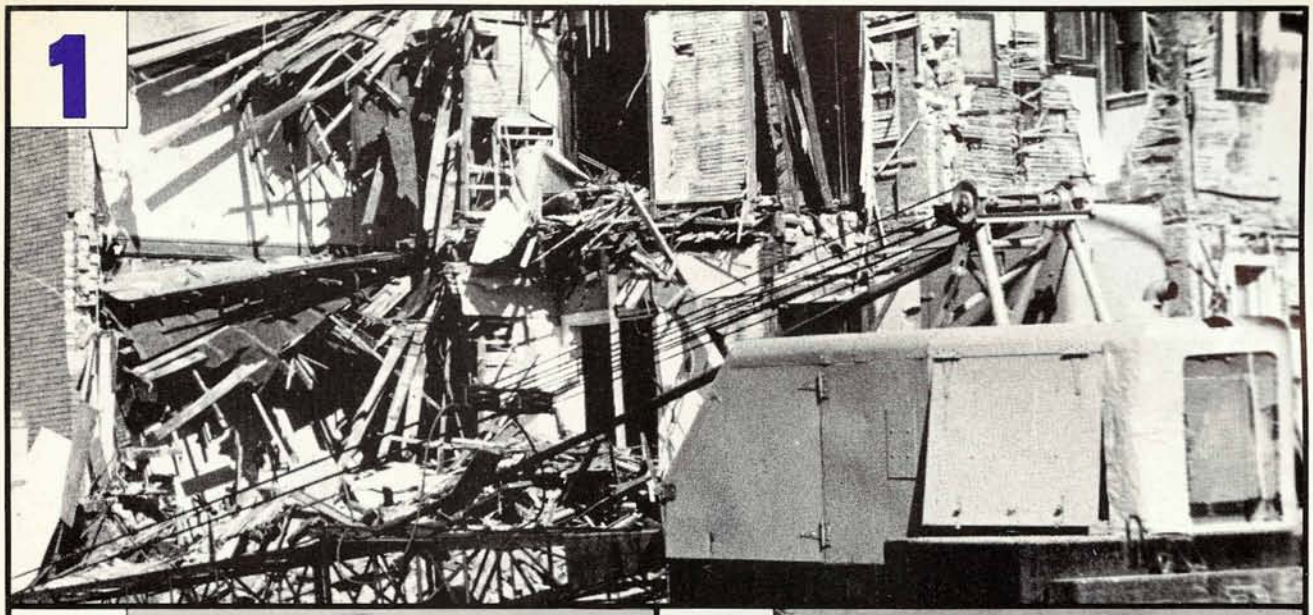
HELEN SHILLER: Part Of The New Opposition

Vol.3 No.8 JUNE 12 - JULY 13, 1978 50



WHO WILL WIN THE BATTLE OF UPTOWN?

In This Issue:



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KEEP STRONG JUNE - JULY, 1978

COLUMNS

Editorial: Take Root And Fight Back..... Page 2
On The Street..... Page 4
Welfare Rights: CHA, Elrod Propose Rent Withholding From Aid Checks..... Page 7
Tenants' Rights: Tenant Gains At 810 W. Grace..... Page 9
Slumlord Of The Month: A Pattern Of Fear, Fire And Destruction..... Page 10
Legal Rights: New Consumer Law, But Deception Continues..... Page 13
Criminal Justice: Supreme Court Rulings Attack Constitutional Rights..... Page 14
Health News: State Of Emergency At Cook County Hospital..... Page 15
Education: Crystal City, Texas: A Model For People's Power..... Page 17
Behind The Faces: Stu Garvey..... Page 18
Black Lung: Hundreds Mourn Black Lung Activist Anise Floyd..... Page 19
Rank 'N File: Movement For A Shorter Work Week Grows..... Page 21
Community Development: "Our Emphasis Is On Preserving The Neighborhood."... Page 22
Fighting City Hall: Proposed Drug Abuse Clinic Restrictions Criticized..... Page 23
National Perspective: Illinois ERA Boycott Gains Momentum..... Page 48
Intercommunal Perspective: Marcos Wins Rigged Election In Philippines..... Page 53
Entertainment: Kenny Rogers On Kenny Rogers..... Page 55

FEATURES

Who Will Win The Battle For Uptown?..... Page 25
A Little Longer, A Little Stronger..... Page 31
Helen Shiller: Part Of The New Opposition..... Page 36
New Pattern Developing On Far South Side..... Page 42
Can It Happen Again?..... Page 44

In This Issue

1. The history of the battle for Uptown is the history of the movement against urban renewal and for community control. In Uptown the community has begun to win some battles. Have they come soon enough and do they go deep enough? See articles page 25 and 31.

2. A new, broad and energetic opposition is on the horizon in Chicago politics. See page 36.

3. Berry Suzukida spent three years as a young man imprisoned in one of several Japanese-American "relocation camps" in the early 1940's. See page 44.

4. Building from a grassroots, labor-oriented, consumer-oriented base, Miriam Balanoff organized herself from a not quite successful state representative race in 1976 to win the recent primary last March for the same office. What did it take? See page 42.

EDITORIAL

TAKE ROOT AND FIGHT BACK

If you are standing on the street on a Monday, and someone drops a bucketful of water on your head, you may decide it was an accident. If it happens again on Tuesday, you should begin to wonder. If it happens on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as well, then you had better take Sunday off and plan some self-defense before Monday comes around again, because someone definitely has you in mind.

It should be clear now that Carter is no different than Nixon. The personality may be different, but the policies are the same. The only difference between Daley and Bilandic is that Bilandic is worse. In both cases, the politicians are following orders from the same big money men, and these big money men have evidently made a decision.

A decision has been made that, as things in this country are not going too well any more, someone is going to have to be cut off short. And if you are a poor working person, on welfare, disabled, very young or very old, Black, Latino, or Native American, then someone has you in mind to bear the burden of the problems this country is running into.

While unemployment and prices are skyrocketing, profits are staying the same or going up. Because more people need welfare, it is being made harder to get and worth less when you get it. Because the economy of this country cannot give employment and support millions of people who are concentrated in the inner cities without cutting corporation profits, we are being run out of inner city neighborhoods and scattered around like salt and pepper so as to be less noticeable and less of a threat. The civil rights gains won in the sixties have mostly been wiped out by the Congress, the Carter administration and the Supreme Court in the seventies.

You and I are under attack. Any good attack uses the method of confusing the enemy. We are being told so many contradictory things by so many different people, that we don't even believe ourselves when we speak.

It is not now a question of politics and

"Taking root means organizing to take control of institutions and organizations we need in order to survive. In Uptown, in Chicago, a community has begun to take some of these steps, from the grassroots."

political persuasions. It is plain and simple a question of survival. If we do not build our own organizations, if we do not control our own community institutions, then we won't have the means to fight back. We need to control our own health centers, housing, employment, schools. We need to control our own unions and our own community organizations.

Taking root means organizing to take control of institutions and organizations we need to survive. In Uptown, in Chicago, a community has begun to take some of these steps, from the grassroots. Uptown did not choose to be a show-place, a model, for the struggle. The people here were just trying to find a way to survive. But it is a model, and other communities will be watching.

Will Uptown throw off the domination of the machine which is choking its people to death? Will the community-controlled health center survive? Will the block club coalition win the housing they have built the power base to demand? Will the people of Uptown still be here in two years?

Do we really have any choice but to take root and fight back?□

ON THE STREET

"CAN HELEN SHILLER WIN NEXT TIME?"

Carmen Alberty
N. Wilton

"I'm not sure about it, but I hope she wins. I'm going to do my best to make sure she does. We've got to show the people what kind of organization we have. If the people know what kind of person we have in there they sure will say 'Bye, Sir.' We have somebody stronger, better. We have to work."

Mildred Gray
N. Clifton

"Yes, I believe she can. And I'm not prejudiced just because she's a female. She seemed to be truthfully honest about what she could do and what she could not do. I received information, literature, etc. about Helen even before I thought about the election coming up. But as soon as I put a poster of Helen in my window, Axelrod posters started popping up all over the place, and I started getting suggestions about taking the picture out of my window and vote for Axelrod and my daughter would get in on their youth programs for the summer. I said, forget it, you don't buy me like that — no way. It seemed like Axelrod just got by on the skin of his teeth, with the machine backing him. I do believe honestly that Helen will do her darndest to keep her promises without making any compromises, and she gets out here and lets the people know that she's around. I never heard of Axelrod before."

Cecil Reynolds
Lake Shore Drive

"Yeah, I think she can win. As far as I'm concerned, the machine has already lost. The only way they maintain their control is through fear and intimidation. I think those kind of people are bound to lose sooner or later."

Brenda Jamison
N. Kenmore

"Yes. I think she's got a good possibility. She's done pretty good within three months. In eight months she should do better. We'll have more voters in eight months."

Jeanne Haynes
W. Irving Park Rd.

"From what I understand about the democratic machine, it's tremendously well organized, and people in Chicago are dependent for their jobs on working in the campaign of the organization candidate. That makes a formidable enemy for any challenger. I think she would need to find some issues that had a tremendous amount of appeal to people, on which she could challenge the incumbent machine candidate. Just anti-city hall is not enough. There has to be something that we can make a stand on. I think that people are much more interested in voting 'yes' for a candidate than just voting 'no' against the machine. What is really depressing for me is to go to an election and know that I have done nothing but case 'no' votes. What I really want is to go in and vote for a candidate. I think people feel that way, and I hope we can find the issue that will get enough people to vote 'yes' for Helen."

Mary Clasberry
W. Belle Plaine

"Sure, why not? After talking to her at meetings, I like her basic program and what she stands for. I think there are enough people with families who should listen anyway. It seems to be in their benefit."

Jim Marshall
W. Warner

"For sure she can win next time. I think there's really been a strong organization that's been formed all throughout the 46th ward. I believe that we've laid the groundwork for continuing an organization that can deal with the different problems that people have, not only in Uptown, but in East Ravenswood and the Lakefront, to get people to realize that there's a real unity of purpose behind Helen Shiller's campaign throughout the 46th ward, and that the community organization that takes place in Uptown is the same community organization that can take place along the Lakefront, to fight the condominium conversions, and realize that people who are on the Lakefront are also on fixed incomes. In East Ravenswood there's organization that can be done relating to sewer problems, relating to the need for parks, and it's the same organization that has been going on in Uptown, and I think a real educational process can take effect, both for the people that are going out into the communities and people who are in the communities. This would be invaluable in laying a real structure for another run in a few months when Axelrod comes up for re-election."

Eugenie Burns
W. Byron

"Hell, yes. More of the same. More information for more people, get around to more people, do more calling, the kind of thing we've been doing earlier, and as I was saying, more voter registration! Get people out to register. In this apartment complex, there are 25 apartments, and out of this there are exactly two households that are registered to vote, period. I think it makes sense to get those people out. I think the more people you get out, it's in your interest. For example if you say to someone, 'We're interested in getting Helen Shiller in, etc. will you come and register?' They're going to remember that. You're taking an interest."

Bill French
N. Kenmore

"There is no doubt about it, she can win. This was a short campaign, actually, put together this time. With the showing that she made, it goes to show that if we put more effort into it, and on a longer basis between now and the next election, she can definitely win. Take the clinic that's going to be opening up. It's going to be good for the ward, and it's something else she pushed for, she fought for, she got, and it's for the people themselves."

Tom Reeves
N. Magnolia

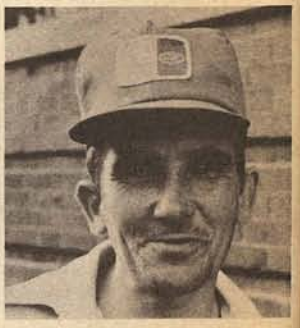
"I'm sure she can. She's for us, and all the people in the neighborhood know that."

Marcella Larson
W. Grace

"I don't see any reason why she can't win. She won a lot of votes this time. If Axelrod doesn't keep his word on what he's going to do, people aren't going to vote for him the second time. He's got enough jobs now, what does he want more jobs for? Spread it around, let everybody have a little money. I really believe that. He said he's going to give up that one job, but I doubt it. If he doesn't come up with all the things that he promised, I don't think people will vote the second time for him. Eight months is long enough to show some progress."

Beverly King
N. Wilton

"She made such a good showing this time considering the short amount of time she had to work on the campaign and what she was up against in terms of the organization and how many years they've been entrenched in the ward. She had a lot of dedicated workers, and people that believed in her. So I think if she starts now, she has a really good chance next time. Of course I think you have to get a lot more people out there and probably raise a lot more money because we're up against money on the other side. If we get to the people and they understand the issues better and understand how important the election is, then she has a really good chance."



Harvey Perdue
N. Malden

"Yes, I'm positive that Helen Shiller will come out the winner next time. We got to get the people together and get them to vote for Helen Shiller. In order to get her in there, we got to get out here and tell the people what kind of woman that she is and what she will do."

Welfare Rights

CHA, Elrod Propose Rent Withholding From Aid Checks

(Chicago, Ill.) Welfare and tenants' rights advocates alike have sharply criticized a proposed change in Illinois Welfare Law which would allow the "voluntary" deduction of Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) rents from public aid checks, with payment going directly from the Illinois Department of Public Aid to the CHA.

The measure, written by the CHA legal staff and strongly backed by Sheriff Richard J. Elrod, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, would affect 55 per cent of the 145,000 people currently living in CHA units.

Elrod's interest in the matter, according to the *Tribune*, is that $2.5 million a year is spent processing 20,000 eviction notices to CHA tenants who fall over two weeks behind in paying their rent. Elrod claims the Sheriff's office is becoming "free rent collectors for the Chicago Housing Authority," since the vast majority of the CHA renters pay their rent sometimes prior to or on the day of actual eviction.

In 1977, according to CHA statistics, 148 tenants were evicted, out of a total of 20,431 cases filed. Unlike private landlords, the CHA, because of its government affiliation, does not have to pay Cook County filing and service fees.

According to CHA officials, the proposed amendment to the Public Aid Code of 1967 would be voluntary because deduction could only be made "Where a qualified recipient by written request consents to the assignment of financial aid to discharge an obligation to the State of Illinois or a political subdivision thereof."

Sheriff Elrod (left) is backing the proposed measure allowing the deduction of CHA rents from Public Aid checks.

Marion Stamps, longtime housing and welfare rights activist with the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization put it bluntly, "Nothing is voluntary when it comes to public aid."

Other activists cited numerous ways in which pressure can be applied to a welfare recipient to sign the consent forms. In this particular case either the welfare grant can be threatened or the CHA lease itself.

A parallel can be drawn between this measure, which would allow deductions for rent and the "protective payee" provision of the welfare regulations (See KEEP STRONG, Feb. 1978) where the entire check is assigned to a third party. If a welfare mother does not agree to have her check assigned to a protective payee in "non-cooperation" cases, the entire grant will be cut and her children will go hungry.

The CHA-Elrod proposal has also been criticized for its broadness. Any debt, they say, owed to the state or county governments for example, medical bills not covered by the green card, could be collected through this provision. "Once this precedent is set," points out one welfare activist, "what would stop the utility companies, for example, from getting the public aid code amended again to get non-governmental bodies, under state jurisdiction, included in this direct payment by "consent" scheme?"□

Rural Areas — Survival Gets Harder

(Peotone, Illinois) The continuing destruction of low-income neighborhoods in Chicago is driving many families from the city, forcing them to smaller cities and rural towns in the midwest. Such is the case of Joe and Arlene Jeffries who with their two children, live in Peotone, Illinois.

In March of 1977, Mr. Jeffries suffered a heart attack and was off work for several months. Shortly after returning to work he had an accident on the job, breaking several ribs, among other injuries.

In need of assistance, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffries applied for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC) program. Mrs. Jeffries was told she would have to sign up with WIN (Work Incentive Program). She did and was then told to report for a job at a local factory. Mrs. Jeffries explained to the WIN worker that she had worked in a different factory but was forced to leave when she began having grand mal epileptic seizures. Her doctor diagnosed the epilepsy as being brought on by the factory work situation. Since that time Mrs. Jeffries has not worked in a factory, has been taking her medication and has not had a seizure for two years.

The WIN worker's response was that she would have to take the job or the ADC application would be denied for the entire family. Mrs. Jeffries did not go for the job, and the application was denied. When Mrs. Jeffries told the caseworker that she and her husband were planning to appeal the decision, the caseworker told her not to bother appealing because, "I'm against you, and the WIN worker is against you."

Living in a rural area, the Jeffries had no close neighbors or community organizations to go to for advice and had to rely on what they were told by the government workers. Luckily for them, however, they did know someone in Chicago. Through these friends they learned that according to public aid's own policy, a person is exempt from accepting a WIN job if there is medical evidence which states he or she cannot accept a particular job. Armed with this knowledge, the Jeffries were able to get their application re-opened and received emergency food stamps right away.

People in rural areas who have to deal with the social security administration are in a similar situation. For example, in Knox, Indiana, the social security workers come every third Tuesday, set up in the police station for one day, to serve the needs of the thousands of people who live in several surrounding towns.

Bill Turney (not his real name), who is on disability and lives in that area said, "Two guys come in, and the place is packed every time. There's usually about 300 people there and you have to wait for hours

"There can be no doubt we have a better chance of surviving when our people are concentrated in great numbers..."

before you get seen. People are afraid to say anything or argue back if something is done wrong, because they're inside the police station."

"They tell you you can write them a letter, and they will send you the forms to fill out. But half the time they don't send them, or they say they never got your letter." Bill had to wait two months for a check when he changed his address. "If you call them they say you never called.

"Once they sent me a letter saying to report within 30 days. They had just been to Knox, and the date on the letter was before they came. I had to go 60 miles to Valparaiso so I could get there within 30 days."

When social security decided they had overpaid Bill, they simply cut his already small check down by $40 dollars. "I couldn't even say anything about it until they came back three weeks later."

The Social Security Administration also has the responsibility of handling black lung cases. There are three coal mines in the area of Knox, but according to Bill, "People who have black lung or who want to file a claim have to travel 300 miles to Indianapolis. The workers that come to Knox refuse to talk to anyone about black lung.

"People anywhere who have to depend on aid from one public agency or another, are likely to encounter some difficulties along the way. But there can be no doubt we have a better chance of surviving when our people are concentrated in great numbers and when those numbers are represented through organization.

"The masterplan to drive low-income people into the boondocks will strip us of our biggest gun — our own community. It will leave us struggling against the same system with the odds of surviving greatly reduced."□

Tenants' Rights

Tenant Gains At 810 W. Grace

(Chicago, Ill.) "When a person is right and what he's fighting for is right, he's going to win. You've got to have faith," explains Ms. Dorothy Bastian about the recent tenant victories at 810 West Grace Apartments. After a year of fighting the landlord and HUD (Housing and Urban Development), tenants of the 260-unit high rise have begun to see some changes.

Most significant of the victories will be refunds from the management company for overcharges on rents and installation of door locks. The overcharges in rent stemmed from a rent increase in 1976 that took place in the middle of the tenants' leases. Refunds on locks came after tenants objected to paying for a permanent deadbolt lock installed on their doors that would stay if they left.

Dorothy Bastian: "When a person is right and what he's fighting for is right, he's going to win."

The building, constructed nine years ago, was part of HUD's FHA 221D3 mortgage financing program. Under the program, an investor with a relatively small amount of cash could apply to HUD for a federally-backed loan to build a building for low and moderate incomes.

Many investors were quick to realize that by also using their own construction firm they could cut corners and make big profits at the expense of the federal government and eventually the tenants.

The 221D3 program, along with a similar program, 236, has been dismantled as a dismal failure, leaving behind buildings falling to pieces in just a few short years.

The tenants at 810 W. Grace were faced with such problems, compounded by ownership and management that turned a deaf ear on tenants' complaints and continued to raise the rents. A tenants union was formed to organize tenants to put pressure on the owner, Mr. Nieberger. Nieberger, as Ms. Bastian, a six year resident puts it, "was more interested in dollars than in people."

The list of tenant complaints was long. They included such problems as: overheating on one side of the building and underheating on the other side; poor security; rats, roaches and no extermination program; leaking window seals; and fungus growing on walls.

When Nieberger sought a new rent increase in late 1977, just a year after the last increase, it was the last straw. Under HUD regulations the owner must announce for thirty days in advance any request for a rent increase. Tenants are then given the opportunity to respond and challenge the increase.

Many owners under the FHA programs have included what are called "escalator clauses" in their leases. This allows them to raise the rents any time if HUD approves. However, in 1976 HUD ruled out escalator clauses and declared that rents may only be raised at the end of a tenant's lease.

The tenants union at 810 W. Grace went to court and challenged not only the 1977 rent increase but the 1976 increase. In both cases Nieberger was trying to raise the rents in mid-lease. After their day in court, as well as several demonstrations, the tenants won their case.

HUD's FHA 221D3 and 236 programs were halted as dismal failures.

All increases from 1976 that came in the middle of a tenant's lease have been ordered refunded. The 1977 increase was approved by HUD, but all the stir about conditions in the building led to an inspection by HUD officials. As a result, the management company has been replaced and some of the long standing repairs are being made.

While progress has been forthcoming, the tenants realize it was because they fought for it. They plan to maintain a constant pressure and to make sure all future problems are dealt with promptly. Ms. Bastian concluded, "You won't get nothing unless you fight for it."□

Slumlord Of The Month

A Pattern Of Fear, Fire and Destruction

(Chicago, Ill.) In the fall of 1974, the three story, 12 unit building at 4645 N. Kenmore burned twice in 48 hours. The night before the first fire, the 'owners,' Larry Young and Larry Dungey, went through the third floor and asked everyone to move downstairs because the decorators were coming the next

"Tenants seeking decent housing have been turned into victims..." in buildings owned by Ron Villa. 4645 N. Kenmore...

day. Some tenants were surprised, but most weren't when a fire erupted in four different places on the third floor less than 12 hours later.

Half the tenants moved out the morning after the fire. Some chose to stick it out, but not for long. The very next night the 'decorators' returned, and once again the building was in flames. By three a.m. all that was left was a charred shell. You could see the evening sky clearly through the first floor windows.

Across the street and down a few addresses from the empty lot at 4645 N. Kenmore another lot is about to become vacant at 4628 N. Kenmore. A series of fires destroyed the building, the latest blaze in the last week of May. Eye witnesses say a strange person was seen going into and coming out of the building at the same time the fire started.

What connects these two buildings is a strange association of men and four years of fires, beatings, lockouts and curiously changing ownerships in a long list of Uptown buildings. Somewhere in the middle of this are the Malisoff brothers. They actually owned the building at 4645 N. Kenmore when it burned in 1974. They own the burnt crust at 4628 N. Kenmore, as well as the run down slums at 4012 N. Sheridan, 4615 N. Magnolia, 4742 N. Magnolia. They owned the building at 4244 N. Kenmore until another series of fires turned it into an empty lot after it had a dozen managers in less than a year's time.

The Malisoffs don't have their heart in Uptown anymore. They don't even come up to look at their buildings. Their heart is a multi-million dollar shopping mall at 2828 N. Clark in New Town called the Century.

Shortly after the fire in 1974, Dungey and Young faded from the scene, and a man named Ron Villa began taking over their buildings. One by one he went around and introduced himself to the tenants and started collecting rents and making promises. In a short time he was well known but not well liked.

His little slumdom has grown quite a bit since 1975, and he now claims to own buildings at 4435 N. Magnolia, 4639 N. Magnolia, 4017 N. Kenmore, 4438 N. Racine and 918 W. Buena. Four of his buildings, including 4244 N. Kenmore, have burned in the last year — two of them in the last four months. Several tenants in one were seriously injured.

He is a master at promising tenants the sky to get them to move into one of his buildings. After they move in they find out that the sky is really the alley, and their apartments are furnished with other people's garbage or whatever is laying around one of his other burned out buildings. Leaky roofs are

repaired at the ceiling with a spot of plaster and a splash of paint — long enough to collect the first month's rent.

Former tenants report on Villa's one step eviction method. When he wants you out, he'll step in and take your door off or a couple of windows out. It's faster and cheaper than having to go through all the trouble of eviction court.

Most people won't fight him. Fear of a good beating hangs over anyone who would buck him. A beating can be bought for $25 or $25 in food stamps, which is just one of the many uses he has found for food stamps. He buys them, sells them, pays his help with them.

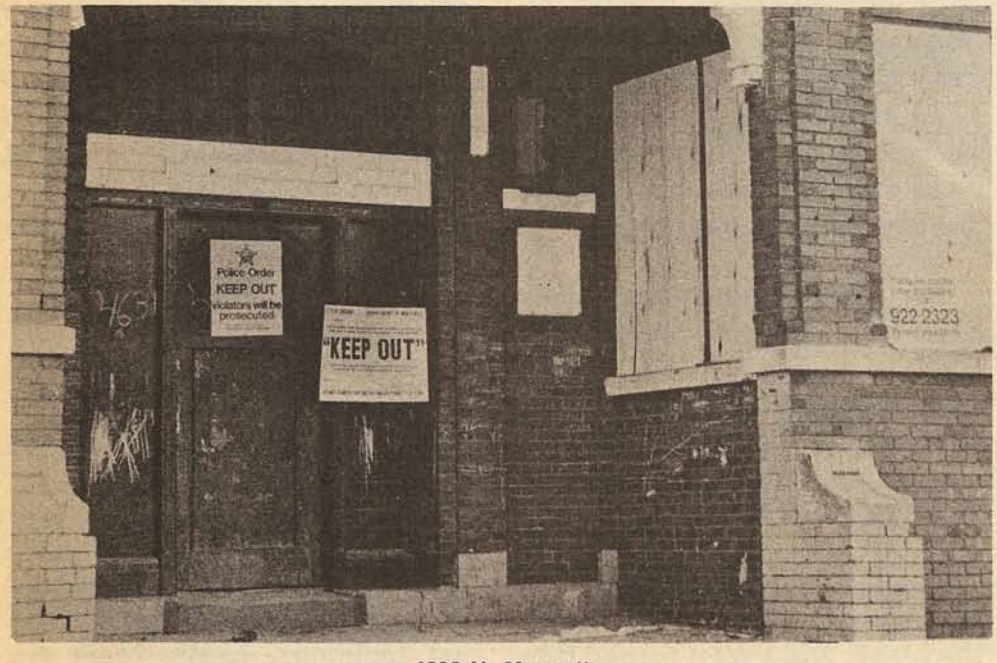
Ron Villa is only the latest in a long line of slum operators who have made big money off the city's plan to make Uptown miserable until the people move and then redevelop it for the upper middle class. Every building he runs is a trap. Each gets worse and worse as the accounts at the Bank of Chicago keep getting fatter and fatter.

Former tenants report that building inspectors come with their hands out and their eyes closed. Although Villa spends a good percent of his time in building court, that doesn't stop him from collecting rents and shoving tenants around.

But what of this association? Why are the million dollar Malisoff boys, the sweethearts of New Town commercial development, so deeply involved with a man who couldn't keep a job as a health spa janitor just a few years ago. Investigators for the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition think they might have the answer. Reliable sources both inside and outside the community report that Villa's operation has all the elements of a tax shelter game. Investigators have pieced together the following picture.

Villa holds the contracts on the buildings. But Malisoff and some others hold the titles to the buildings and pay the taxes. Villa collects the rents, pockets most of it and runs up big bills at hardware stores around town. It's anybody's guess what actually happens to the hardware. It definitely doesn't end up in the buildings. The buildings depreciate and show a loss for a few years, in spite of what appears to be the investment of lots of money in repairs. The title holders can deduct the losses from their income tax. When the game is run long enough, the building burns. Everybody but the tenants get a chunk of the insurance money, leaving a nice piece of empty land that can be sold when the right price comes along.

4628 N. Kenmore



4639 N. Magnolia

A few things are known facts. Several hundred families have lost all they owned after dealing with Ron Villa. Tenants seeking decent housing have been turned into victims, children have been hurt and senior citizens have been caused great suffering.□

Legal Rights

New Consumer Law, But Deception Continues

(Chicago, Ill.) On March 20, 1978, the "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act" became law. The purpose of this new federal consumer protection law is to eliminate the abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices common to many collection agencies.

Millions of people are familiar with the tactics of the collection agencies: the harassing telephone calls, threatening letters, visits to employers, etc. Deception is the name of the game.

Elaine Minor came home from work one day in late May. In her mailbox she found a welcome envelope, one of those brown window envelopes that tax returns come in. She opened it right away, expecting to find a badly needed check. But there was no check for Elaine Minor, only disappointment, confusion, worry and eventually anger.

Instead of a tax return, Elaine found a notice from Collection Services, a collection agency operated by C.B. Management of Chicago Heights. But this notice was different than others she had received, as the light blue computer card looked like some kind of legal notice.

On top of the card in big, bold, Old English type were the words, "REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE," and under that the time and location of the requested appearance, with the stipulation that at the appearance she could "give reason why further action should not be taken against" her.

On the top right side of the card, again in bold letters, was the word "ALLEGATION," and "Based upon a legal transaction, we are informed and believe you to be indebted to...in the amount of $113.93."

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act describes several "false or misleading representations" in section 807 of the new law, which the Collection Services "Request for Appearance" notice might be considered. Most notable of these are 807(9): "The use or distribution of any written communication which simulates or is falsely represented to be a document authorized, issued, or approved by any court, official, or agency of the United States or any State, or which creates a false impression as to its source, authorization or approval." and 807(13): "The false representation or implication that documents are legal process."

Walter Baron, an official of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Chicago, upon looking at the envelope and the notice Elaine Minor received felt that there was sufficient grounds to file a complaint. But Bill Hill of Collection Services defended the use of the form. In fact,

POSTMASTER: 3547 Requested
Please Forward

If addressee has moved and filed a change-of-address notice. If undeliverable, return this envelope and contents herein to local area:

P.O. Box 426
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

Request For Appearance

NOTICE - You have failed to respond to our previous demand for payment, resulting in the present urgent condition; therefore it is requested that you present yourself at our office May 30, , 19 78 at 4:30 a.m./p.m. and give reason why further action should not be taken against you.

4513 North Magnolia
Chicago, Illinois 60650

ALLEGATION

BASED UPON A LEGAL TRANSACTION, WE ARE INFORMED AND BELIEVE YOU TO BE INDEBTED TO

See Reverse Side

IN THE AMOUNT OF
$ 111.93

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF PERSONAL APPEARANCE IS IMPOSSIBLE, PHONE FOR NEW APPOINTMENT OR MAKE PAYMENT TO OUR OFFICE OF THIS AMOUNT

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3

Computer cards that look like legal notices continue to be sent by collection agencies, despite federal laws prohibiting their use.

according to Mr. Hill, the form had been approved by the State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education, upon the request of the manufacturer, American Commercial Services.

A check with Emmons Russell of the Department of Registration and Education revealed that the State does not approve collection agency forms upon a manufacturer's request. Mr. Russell's opinion was that the form would be legal by Illinois standards, though not necessarily by federal law.

Walter Baron of the FTC pointed out other important measures of the new federal law. For example, notices or calls that a person is receiving from a collection agency can be stopped by the alleged debtor by sending written notice to the collection agency. After that the debt collectors can only notify you about actual actions taken in the matter.

People who feel that a debt collector has broken the law can sue the collector in a state or federal court within one year from the date the law was violated. Money can be recovered for the damages suffered. Court costs and attorney's fees can also be recovered. In Chicago, complaints and questions should be taken to the Federal Trade Commission, 55 E. Monroe, room 1437.□

Criminal Justice

Supreme Court Rulings Attack Constitutional Rights

(Washington, D.C.) A strong reaction marks the Supreme Court decision issued June 1, giving police authority to enter newspaper offices unannounced and to look for evidence of a crime, even if no member of the paper is suspected of the offense.

In spite of explicit provisions in the U.S. Constitution protecting freedom of the press, a 5-3 majority of the Supreme Court said that such a search is allowed under the Constitution.

Dissenting Justice Potter Stewart said, "It requires no blind leap of faith to understand that a person who gives information to a journalist only on condition that his identity will not be revealed will be less likely to give that information if he knows that, despite the journalist's assurances, his identity may in fact be disclosed.

"And it cannot be denied that confidential information may be exposed to the eyes of police officers who execute a search warrant by rummaging through the files, cabinets, desks and wastebaskets of a newsroom."

Barclay Jameson, managing editor of the *New Mexican* in Santa Fe, said: "This allows police simply to invade newspaper offices at will to search for things which are totally undefined. It could easily be used as harassment to prevent the production of a newspaper. I would assume," he added, "the court would rule that search warrants could be used to invade a lawyer's office."

Benjamin Bradlee, executive director of the *Washington Post*, said that under the ruling, "The Pentagon papers could never have been published. The police would have entered newspaper offices and seized them before newspapers could bring the facts to the people.

"If this decision were in force during Watergate, it requires no stretch of the imagination to see police in these offices on a regular basis on a fishing expedition for Messrs. Nixon, Mitchell, Haldeman, Erlichmann and company. The requirement of a warrant is no real protection for the government can always find a judge to issue a warrant. It's just plain awful."

The high court decision stems from a suit brought by staff members of the student newspaper at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

In April 1971, following a student demonstration, offices of the *Stanford Daily* were searched by the Santa Clara County district attorney after the DA's office got a court issued search warrant.

The issue raised in the case was whether search warrants which do not provide for an opportunity for objection

Grain elevator fire in New Orleans, where several workers were killed. The Supreme Court ruling that occupational health inspectors can no longer perform on the spot saftey inspections will provide businessmen with a strong upper hand against union demands for safe and healthy working conditions.

through a court process were a violation of the constitutional protection of freedom of the press.

In another case, the Supreme Court ruled that occupational health inspectors are no longer allowed to perform on the spot safety inspections of factories or businesses. They are now required to obtain a court order first, limiting their ability to make surprise visits and providing businessmen with an even stronger upper hand against union demands for safe and healthy working conditions.□

Health News

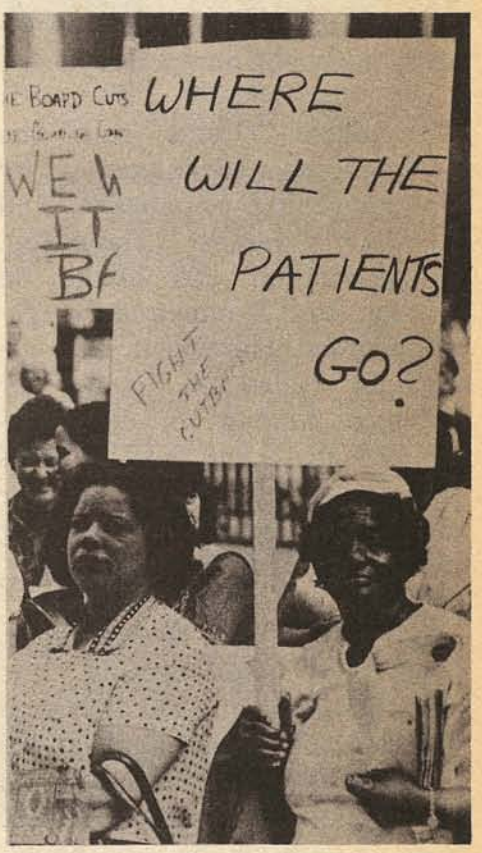
State Of Emergency At Cook County Hospital?

Chicago, Ill.) A surge of demonstrations and angry crowds at public hearings met the County Board's decision to cut the Cook County Hospital public health system budget. The budget cuts caused immediate loss of health care for both the unemployed, welfare recipients and the working poor. The County's transportation system was cut, making clinic services unavailable for thousands. Important nursing and support staff were laid off. The County Hospital facility at Cook County Jail, Cermak Hospital, was stripped of almost all staff, although the building stays open through court injunction.

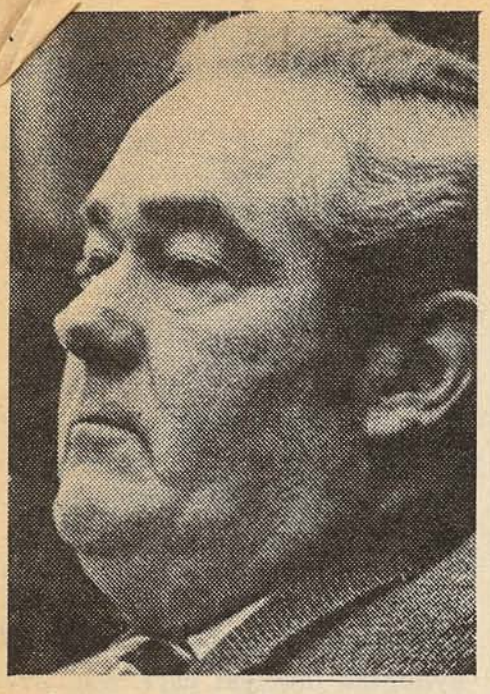
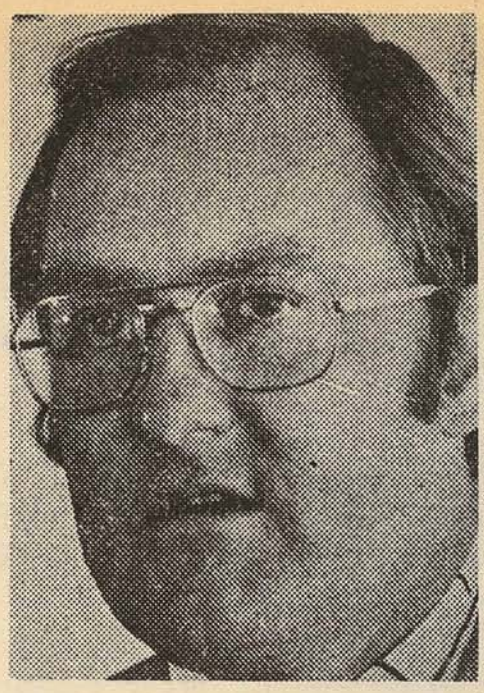
The situation finally caused the chief county medical officers to call formally on the Hospital Governing Commission to declare a state of emergency. They in turn went to the County Board and Cook County Board president George Dunne, asking for an emergency increase in the tax levy to permit an increase in funds for the hospital health care delivery system. And there it stopped.

Dunne, powerful chairman of the central committee of the Cook County Democratic Party, saw no emergency. Had lightning struck? Had there been floods or other acts of God? The loss of life through lack of available medical care was evidently not an emergency to Chairman Dunne, and the county board refused an increase in funding.

The group of concerned individuals and workers at Cook



One of the many demonstrations which met the County Board's decision to cut the Cook County Hospital budget.

Cook County Board President George Dunne (left) said the problem was mismanagement by the governing commission and director James Haughton. Haughton put the blame on Dunne, they both blamed Governor Thompson (middle) and everybody called on Carter (right) for support.

County Hospital and Cermak that mobilized again and again to have the emergency at Cook County Hospital heard learned that a complicated set of political contradictions protected the attack on Cook County Hospital.

President Dunne said the problem was mismanagement by the governing commission and Director James Haughton. Haughton put the blame on Dunne. Both Dunne and Haughton blamed Thompson, and everybody called on Carter for support. Adding to the confusion, the press and the T.V. news picked up one side or another and then dropped it, depending on what made a good news story.

Some facts have become clear. Thompson, representing the state government, has approved 40% of the medicaid applications presented by the hospital, as opposed to 60% approved last year. In addition, he is withholding even most of these payments to make it appear that he has a balanced budget going into the next election. He has also refused to pay for psychiatric care, which legally is the state's responsibility.

Dunne, representing the county board, is having his henchmen in Springfield introduce bills to the legislature that would virtually eliminate Cook County Hospital, turning it and its patients over to private hospitals that already routinely deny treatment to the poor, Black and Latino communities. Meanwhile, he has had the County Board deny necessary funds and gone to great pains to say he believes in County Hospital but Haughton is providing incompetent management.

Dr. Haughton and the Health and Hospital Governing Commission are caught between proving they are able to run the hospital and the anger of staff and patients receiving the short end because of budget cuts. As one community observer pointed out, "That is why the governing commission was set up — to be a buffer," between the community and the state and county governments.

Round one this year is over. Community leaders point out that the fight was not really led by community-controlled organizations, although some participated, and the protest never got its teeth into the power structure. It is clear that the machine, led by Dunne, is moving to eliminate the hospital and hoping to put the blame for its eventual downfall on somebody else.

Cook County Hospital is still the best — because it is the only — place for thousands of people in this city to receive health care. But it will not be there long if the community does not make itself felt. And if you happen to get locked up in the county jail, your best bet is to stay healthy. There is no hospital for you to go to.□

Education

Crystal City, Texas: A Model For People's Power

(Chicago, Ill.) "The project which I'm here to speak of was a very ambitious program. We simply wanted to take over politically the city council, the school government and the county government to create a new society."

These words were spoken at the Alternative Schools Conference held here in May, by Angel Gutierrez, a member of La Raza Unida Party who currently serves as a county judge in Crystal City, Texas.

As the former president of the Crystal City School Board, Mr. Guttierez afforded conference participants an opportunity to hear about the total experience he had been involved with in this Texas city of 10,000, including the alternative education program.

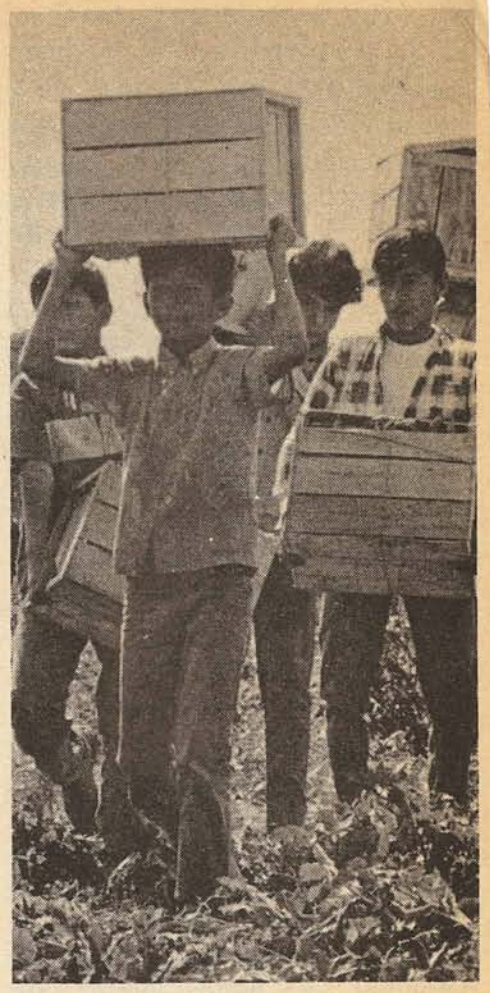
In 1969, a successful boycott of Crystal City schools over the exclusive procedures used to make sure the homecoming queen would be White in a predominately Mexican school prompted residents to go farther, explained Gutierrez.

"The only way to make this permanent was to form our own electoral instrument, hence the idea of a political party. We had been trying to form a political party for years, but you just don't announce it through a press release and expect people to join. There had to be a reason why it's important. We did organize a party after the boycott, and in the first election we won 25 out of 26 seats in a three county area. We had majorities on school boards and city councils overnight. Then came the real problem because we were the responsible authorities.

"The election was in April of 1970. In May school got out. Nine days before the next school year began 90 per cent of the faculty quit. They quit because we had passed some rules and regulations that summer requiring people to be bi-lingual and if they weren't, to give a time plan to show proficiency in the language, to show proficiency in the knowledge of the culture of Chicanos and to show a commitment beyond the regular work day.

"All these things they felt were threatening, so they quit. The Texas Classroom Teachers Association and the State Teachers Association both blacklisted us and sent flyers all over the U.S. saying, 'Do not teach in Crystal City because militants have taken over.'

"Fortunately that was a blessing in disguise. It accelerated one of the main ideas of our program: that we have community people either as aides or as teachers, and to have some program by which they may make an entry into the system to start teaching.



Greatly improved schools in Crystal City have sharply reduced the number of students leaving school at an early age.

"We developed a community program from the cafeteria personnel all the way up to the superintendent. Now 80 per cent of the entire personnel of the school district is from the community, because the migrants, housewives, widows, veterans and drop-outs were all re-programmed into associate of arts degrees, bachelors degrees, masters degrees and lifetime certificates for administrative positions.

The current superintendent is a graduate of Crystal City. He's a young man and was involved

with the walkout as a teacher. He is a graduate of a program designed by the Crystal City Board of Education to train superintendents. We have trained 22 superintendents who are now in many areas of the country.

"The problem of not having a faculty allowed us the flexibility to bring in all kinds of people into the classroom. That caused a lot of certification problems for the next five years. The state was constantly trying to remove the certification for the district.

"As a consequence, just by changing the atmosphere the first year we opened the schools, about 270 kids dropped back in. An atmosphere where you saw your aunt, your cousin, you saw someone you know as a model representative, whether as a teacher's aide, a teacher, a principal, a band leader or whatever. One of the most remarkable things is that no less than 83 per cent of our graduating classes go on to college. And it's gone as high as 91 per cent. Previously, six Chicanos is the highest that ever went to college, and that's about one half of one per cent of the graduating classes.

"The graduations, for example, are not just the kids getting their high school diplomas. It's their grandmothers, their fathers, their cousins who are also getting their high school equivalency or aide degree, bachelor's degree, masters degree or a superintendent certificate. The graduation has about five different classes sitting out there on the football field. It's a very good feeling for the people. They have a sense of control of their situation."□

Behind The Faces

Stu Garvey

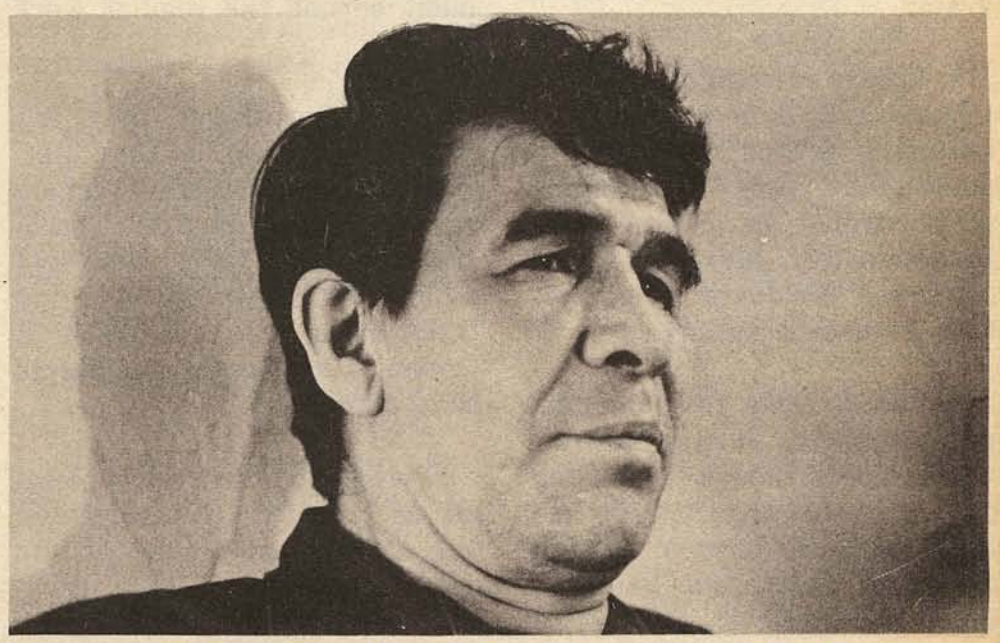
With this issue of KEEP STRONG *a new column, "Behind the Faces," is being introduced. There is a great deal of knowledge and wisdom that exists in our communities — knowledge and wisdom which too often is not recognized or shared. It is through this column that the* KEEP STRONG *staff hopes to be able to make a contribution toward the expression of what lies behind our many diverse and experienced faces.*

(Chicago, Ill.) "My name is Stu Garvey. I'm an Indian. I've lived in the neighborhood (Uptown) off and on since 1947, which is about 31 years. I've been up and down, all around the length of Chicago, done different things with various occupations. I've been on the bum, and I've been on the top as far as my skills and ability carried me. I have a lot of things that I'd like to bring out in our conversation.

"I come from a large family of 10 kids; an "Indian-style" family. My father was Sioux, and my mother was Chippewa. They didn't believe in the pill like they do today. We all stuck together, worked together, played together, suffered together. If anyone in the family was ever in need, we were always there.

"You know, I've had a full life and I have no regrets. I've always tried to live the way my father taught me. He used to tell me, 'Do the best you can at any work you do. If you don't know something, ask, and try to learn something from everything you do."

"I don't have any formal education but I've learned from experience. If you don't teach



Stu Garvey: "Try to learn something from everything you do."

yourself, you gain no knowledge, you are going to be a lost cause, like a pebble on the beach. Anything I've done I've learned the hard way through hard core experience.

"I was born in Nebraska. I lived there for approximately four years. I went to school in South Dakota for approximately five years, and then my family, because of the Depression, moved to Northern Minnesota, where my mother's family came from, in search of work and the potential of better family living. I completed my high school education in a small town that nobody's ever heard of called Minomen, Minnesota, which in the Chippewa language means wild rice.

"After I finished high school, I went into the service in 1942. I gained a lot of experience there. You couldn't give me a million to go through it again, but I did learn. I was overseas for 41 months. I was in combat, an infantry soldier because I'm an Indian — that's my feeling. I didn't have any education so I couldn't go to any cadet school or something so they shoved me in the infantry. I was wounded a couple of times and saw a lot of my friends get zilched. I felt I had done what I should have done.

"After I got out of the service in 1945, I worked for Western Electric, which was a part of A.T.&T., one of the largest corporations in the world. My co-workers elected me a union steward. We went on strike in Minnesota because of the low wages (I was making $28 a week), the hours and the pressures that we were getting from the company.

"They sent five of us to Chicago to meet with the union heads and corporation heads from the Hawthorne Works in Cicero. Hawthorne Works covered the northwest area from Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas. At that time it was called Northwestern Bell Telephone.

"At the meeting we got into a heated discussion about the working conditions in Minnesota. The man representing the company was very opposed to the union. We had a very small say as far as the nationwide or overall picture was concerned, but we were giving them a fright. We went on a 49 day strike. We brought up our points.

"They rejected everything that we had to say. The company man pounded on the table and said, 'We're going to prove to you that might is right. We'll move our operation out of St. Paul and take it to Wisconsin.

"'We can't fire you, so if any of you want to come with us you're welcome to do so. Whether you want to commute to Hudson, Wisconsin and back to Minnesota is entirely up to you.'"

"Well, at this particular time, even automobiles were hard to come by. It was directly after the war, and prices were way out of line with wages. Transportation was almost nil to us, working people. They did move the plant across the river into Wisconsin, which put 5,800 of us out of work, and so I came to Chicago in 1947 seeking work.

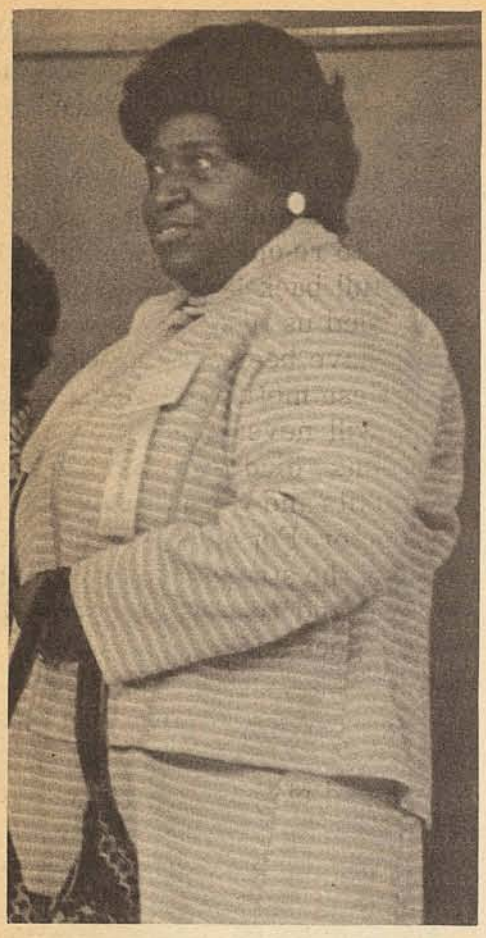
"In Chicago, I've done just about any kind of job that's been given to anyone without an education or field. I've worked in steel shops, on trains, moved furniture, scrubbed floors, done janitorial work, building maintenance, been an electrician's helper, done carpentry work and cabinet-making and of course worked the slave markets — daily pay.□

Black Lung

Hundreds Mourn Slain Black Lung Activist Anise Floyd

(Charleston, W. Virginia) On May 24, hundreds of mourners, including Black Lung Association representatives from many states, crowded into the Simpson Methodist Church to pay respects to Anise Floyd, president of the Miners' Wives and Widows' Association and a leading figure in the struggle of black lung victims.

Ms. Floyd was fatally shot by a 72-year-old black lung claimant who went berserk after years of Department of Labor red tape had continued to hold up his claim. This individual, who was



Anise Floyd. "It is the people who choose to remain with their people. . . who finally bear the brunt of frustration and rage."

completely invisible to the Washington-based Department of Labor bureaucracy, became deluded with the notion that Ms. Floyd, who was attempting to help him with his claim, was somehow cheating him.

In her eulogy to Ms. Floyd, Helen Powell, secretary of the Black Lung Association, said, "It is the people who choose to remain with their people, as Anise did, people who do not build barriers between themselves and human suffering, who finally bear the brunt of frustration and rage.

"Anise would have had us pray for her murderer. But as her friends who are left to grieve for her, we cannot forget the final message of her work."□

Black Lung Claim Reopened And Won

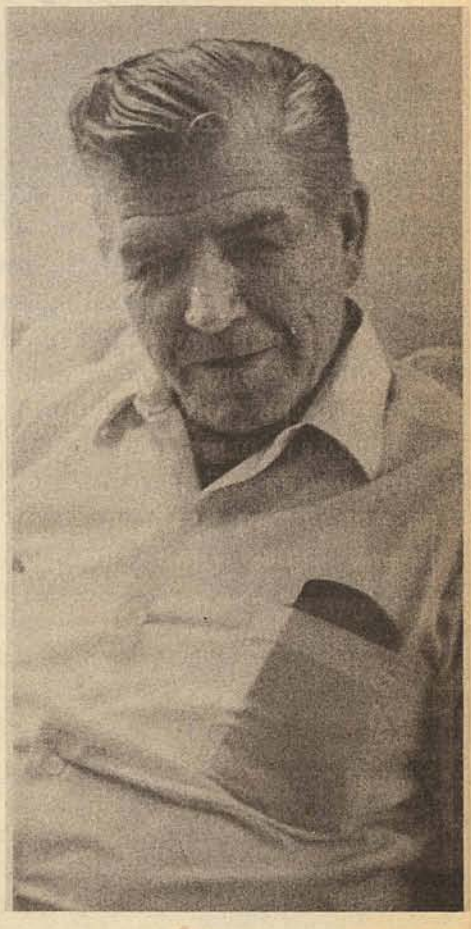
(Chicago, Ill.) In April 1978, eight years after first applying and three years after his original hearing, Carlos Jarrel was finally granted his black lung benefits.

In 1975, Carlos Jarrel, a veteran of 24 years in the coal mines, went to Evanston, Illinois for a hearing in front of an Administrative Law Judge of the Social Security Administration. He was appealing the denial of his black lung claim. He had to take his time walking to the hearing room because the shortness of breath that had caused him to leave the coal mines in the 1950's had been worsening.

In order to survive, Mr. Jarrell was continuing to work at Danly Machine Corp. He had been taken off all strenuous work and spent virtually all of his time operating a crane. Even this was too difficult for him, and he would have to rest several times while climbing a 40 foot ladder to reach the crane.

He went to the hearing unrepresented, assured that he was going in front of an impartial judge who would not attempt to trick or confuse him, that this was a "non-adversary case." As he struggled to catch his breath, he was only vaguely aware that the reason for this shortness of breath was that 23 years of excessive exposure to coal dust had caused damage to his lung tissue. The result was that his lungs could not adequately do the job of transferring oxygen from the air he breathed to his bloodstream, so that his muscles could not effectively do physical work.

He was not aware that a doctor who he had seen at his own expense had been conscientious enough to perform a "blood gas study" and that this study in his case had met Social Security's own official standards for disability. Nor was he aware that because he had over 15 years in the mines, the disabling blood gas scores legally entitled him to a "presumption" that his problem was caused by the mines and that he was entitled to benefits.



Carlos Jarrell spent 23 years laboring at what is probably the hardest job in the world, mining coal. Eight years after first applying for his black lung benefits they were finally granted.

All he knew was that he had seen older generations and his own generation of coal miners gradually grow more and more unable to breathe, that this was happening to him, that his doctor had advised him to stop working. Unable to find legal help, he placed his faith in the Social Security Administration.

The presiding administrative law judge, Charles Dean Connor, found that Carlos Jarrell's work, pulling the levers to operate a crane, was comparable in difficulty to his 23 years of laboring at what is probably the hardest job in the world, mining coal. This means, from Connor's point of view, that Mr. Jarrell is not disabled. In summing up the evidence and the relevant laws, Connor ignored the qualifying blood gas scores as well as the existence of the "15 year presumption" written into the original black lung legislation.

A spokesperson for the Chicago Area Black Lung Association commented, "When you listen to the tapes of Connor's hearings, the most sickening thing is the obvious deliberate manipulation of the questioning in order to justify false findings. The miners who have gone in front of him simply have had no chance."

CABLA has exposed these kinds of abuses and has been able to re-open some old claims for full back pay. "This is what enabled us to win Jarrell's case. We have been able to win a few of these motions to re-open, but we will never know how many victims died without getting benefits and without ever seeing a doctor. For those that are still alive, the struggle to be compensated and to find decent health care goes on."□

Rank 'N File

Movement For A Shorter Work Week Grows

(Chicago, Ill.) In the growing national movement for a shorter work week, a local coalition of labor unions has formed here with plans to hold a conference in the near future.

"The conference will be a follow-up to national conferences held in Dearborn, Michigan last October 1977 and just recently in April," said a member of the Chicago area coalition.

The April conference was attended by over 700 delegates representing 200 locals from 25 different states. The major unions represented were: auto, steel, packing, electrical, machine, and textile and shoe workers. According to a conference participant, "80 to 90 per cent of the people there were representing local shops — not big union leaders."

Congressman Conyers, (D-Mich.), who recently introduced a bill for the shorter work week (HR 11784), also attended the conference. Despite many previous efforts, this is the first such bill since the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act was passed, bringing in the 40 hour week and overtime pay.

The major provisions of the bill are overtime pay after 35 hours (instead of the present 40,) overtime paid at double time (instead of the present time and a half). and overtime done on a voluntary basis. (This would outlaw compulsory overtime.)

"The purpose of the bill is to make more work for the millions of unemployed and young people coming into the job market," said the coalition member. "The high overtime pay is to encourage the hiring of more people rather than having one person work longer hours.

At the April conference, it was decided to go back and set up local conferences across the country. The tasks at hand are first to sponsor the bill and second to get unions to start dealing with the issue during collective bargaining and contract negotiations.

"Our objective is shorter hours with no reduction in pay. This cannot be done through the legislative process. It's up to the unions to ensure this, and the main pressure will have to come from the rank and file."□

Community Development

"Our Emphasis Is On Preserving The Neighborhood."

(Chicago, Ill.) Feeling the strain of a community neglected, residents of East Ravenswood on Chicago's northside have gone into action to stop the destruction of their community before it starts.

Earlier this spring, representatives of the Concerned Citizens of East Ravenswood (CCER) presented to the city their proposal for a part of the community development act funds which are expected in Chicago for the fourth year of this federal program. Their three part proposal targets concrete solutions to physical and social problems they know need solving in their area.

"Our area has gone without for many years," explained CCER President Patrick Dalton. "Although the area is a stable one, we have not received a great deal of attention from the city. We're hoping very much that we'll receive a positive response to our proposal."

A recent survey conducted by the CCER found that "54 out of 69 residents in the East Ravenswood area reported basement flooding, much of it serious." Although numerous meetings have been held with city officials, the residents of this area have not been able to get a commitment from the city that something will be done to solve their problem.

Major rebuilding of the sewer system on Greenview Avenue from Irving Park to Montrose where severe basement and street flooding has plagued residents for years is a number one priority of the CCER's Community Development Act Proposal.

A second survey conducted by the active community group found that the many seniors in the area "spend fully 40% of their fixed incomes on maintenance." Working with Lakeview High School, which is located within the neighborhood's boundaries, the CCER has been able to develop a youth program that is aimed at getting young people involved with aiding seniors in home and property maintenance. For this the CCER is requesting enough money to purchase the equipment necessary to make this program a reality.

Other aspects of the CCER's proposal include the establishment of a park in an empty lot north of Irving Park and bordered by Southport, Clark and Warner Streets, and a rehabilitation and beautification project on Clark Street from Irving Park to Montrose that would emphasize sidewalk repairs and safety lights.

The CCER was formed two years ago, and currently over 100 people attend the regularly scheduled monthly meetings, says Dalton. The proposal is a step in the right direction, he adds. "Off and on various people have been working on some of these problems for seven years with little or no real response. But in the last two years we've

CCER's proposal includes the establishment of a park, sidewalk repairs and safety lights on Clark Street from Irving Park to Montrose — programs badly needed by the senior citizens in the area as well as the entire community.

become a lot more vocal.

"The city has been concerned with downtown business. Our emphasis is on preserving the neighborhood and holding the business here; to allow elderly people to remain in their homes, not to become a speculative community with the old people driven out and 'New Town' to take over. We have a great ethnic and cultural diversity, and it's very positive."□

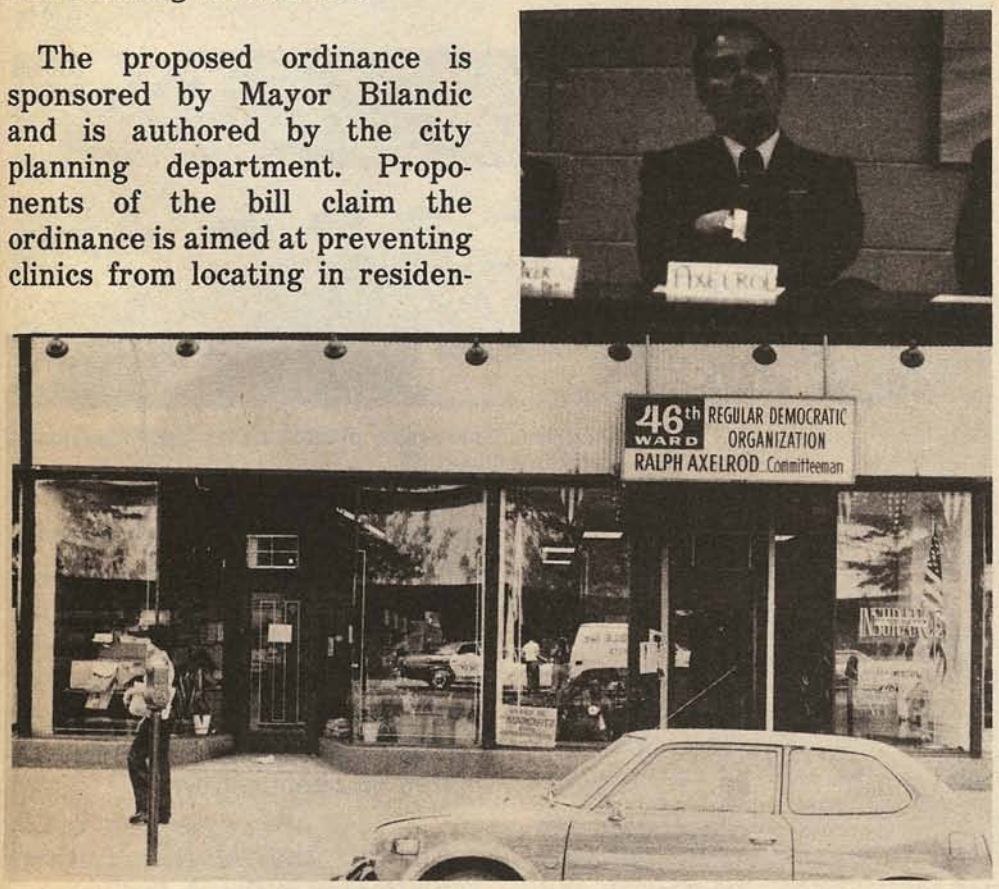
Fighting City Hall

Proposed Drug Abuse Clinic Restrictions Criticized

(Chicago, Ill.) A proposed city ordinance to severely restrict the location of drug abuse clinics in Chicago has met strong opposition during hearings held before the City Council Zoning and Building Committee.

The proposed ordinance is sponsored by Mayor Bilandic and is authored by the city planning department. Proponents of the bill claim the ordinance is aimed at preventing clinics from locating in residential neighborhoods and the concentration of clinics in any one area. They claim that such clinics "downgrade" a community.

Testifying at the recent hearings, Thomas Kirkpatrick, executive director of the state's Dangerous Drugs Commission stated, "This particular ordinance is extremely severe and restrictive. This ordinance threatens the needs of many people who badly need these services."



Ralph Axelrod (right), whose ward office is next door to a drug abuse clinic (below), has said it led to the "deterioration of the whole shopping strip." The clinic's director disagreed and said, "Some people just don't want to know!"

Specifically, the ordinance would limit drug abuse clinics and programs to C2 zoning. It would also require a special use permit within the C2 zones. The city planning department has admitted C2 zoning covers less than 1% of the city, primarily lots zoned for used car dealers.

The department has also admitted, according to informed sources, that they had little knowledge of the needs of drug abuse clinics when writing the proposal. Critics of the bill point out the department did not specify if the proposal would also affect existing clinics. Currently, there are 21 clinics operating in Chicago, the majority of which are not located in C2 zoning.

Pat Larsen, a spokesperson for the Dangerous Drugs Commission, explained, "Accessibility and where clients are employed are key factors in where clinics locate. There has to be some flexibility to account for shifting population patterns and conditions. Drug programs do no bring drugs into a neighborhood, they are a response to an already existing problem in that area.

"If you look at a map," Ms. Larsen continued, "and where the clients come from, where they work, convenience of transportation and where the C2 zones are, it is clearly a problem."

Informed sources feel some politicians are playing upon fears the public may have about drug abuse programs. Recent "irrational and inflammatory statements" made by elected officials in support of the proposal have made some experts wonder if the officials are sincerely interested in solving problems or making a media name for themselves.

Meanwhile, a recent report published by the Chicago Health Systems Agency, responsible for monitoring health care throughout Chicago, recommends the establishment of four more clinics in the city.

Ralph Axelrod, the newly electly 46th ward alderman whose ward office is next door to the Uptown Community Drug Abuse Clinic, told reporters, "That place has been a disaster. It's absolutely led to the deterioration of the whole shopping strip [Broadway and Wilson]. These people are continually standing around outside the clinic...Some of them go under the "L" tracks and resell the methadone."

Inez Williams, director of the Uptown clinic, blasted those charges. She pointed out that all methadone is consumed on the premises and clients must drink it immediately. "His people stand out front and talk," said Ms. Williams. "So what's the difference? Over 50% of our 170 clients work or go to school. It's just a question of how you see addicts. We've tried to educate people. But some people just don't want to know. We're trying to do the best job we can with what little we have and they're trying to make it less."□

Dallas City Council Ignores Community Programs

(Dallas, Tex.) This city's 1978 Capital Improvements Program has come under severe attack for failing to respond to the very concrete projects proposed by citizen groups in East, West and South Dallas.

Charging that all East Dallas is slated to receive from the $400 million program is "three streets nobody wants, a railroad crossing, an air conditioner and a toilet," the *People's Voice* pointed out, "The people of East Dallas can't find their representatives. Neither can people in West and South Dallas."

Absent from the city's plans are numerous projects for each of these communities that have not only been requested but which have received broad community support.

In East Dallas, the Community and Youth Center requested by the Bois d'Arc Patriots, East Dallas People's Park Committee and the East Dallas Neighborhood Design Committee was conspicuously omitted from the city's plan.

Citizens in West Dallas, led by the Brown Berets, requested funds for a multipurpose center to serve the large Latino community there. This center would bring under one roof a multitude of education, health and job-training programs that directly concern Mexican-Americans in Dallas. The Council has taken no action on their request.

Finally, the Martin Luther King Center in South Dallas was also denied funds for its continued operation

Community activists in East Dallas claim, "The people of East Dallas can't find their representatives..."

The Struggle Against Urban Renewal On The North Side Of Chicago Reaches Turning Point

WHO WILL WIN THE BATTLE FOR UPTOWN?

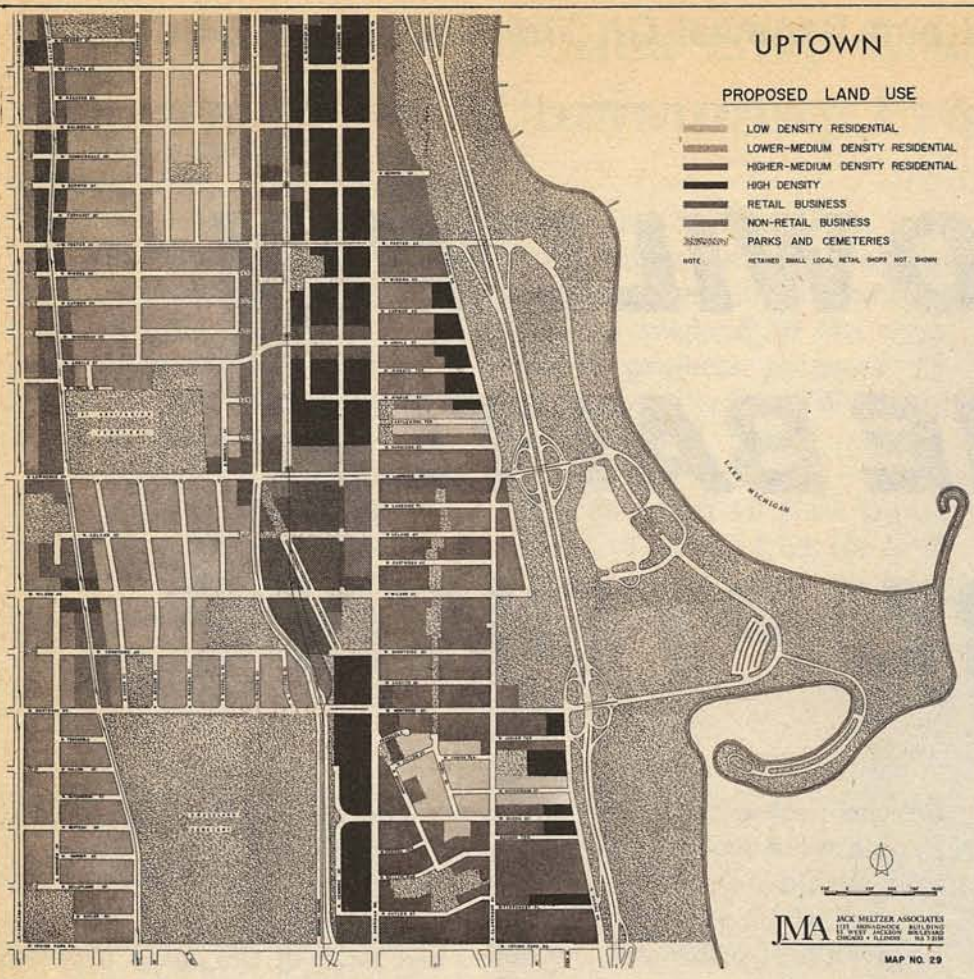
The struggle against "urban renewal" on the northside of Chicago has reached the turning point. The long and bitter struggle which began on North Clark Street in the late fifties has now reached the state in Uptown where the people who live in the community can determine how and where the available federal funds are spent and work to insure that these monies are spent in their own best interest.

In 1958, the city of Chicago's Department of Urban Renewal began its program of "urban revitilization" on the northside in the old Clark Street neighborhood from Ohio Street to North Avenue. This was a racially mixed area of poor Whites, Puerto Ricans and Native Americans. The housing was run down and dilapidated, and the area was thriving with mafia type operations.

The city promised to clean up the area, and build new housing for the people who lived there. People were led to believe that they would only have to move for a short time and then would be given first priority in the new housing which was to be built. Instead, the city replaced this community with "Old Town" and Carl Sandburg Village: predominately White, middle class and stable.

The people who had lived on Clark Street were forced to move to the Lincoln Park community. Lincoln Park also had most of the same problems found in any of the poor neighborhoods in Chicago — high unemployment, gangs, high crime, poor housing, indecent health care and so on. Again the city decided to revitalize. In 1968

Believing they would only have to move for a short time, the people who had lived on Clark Street found their community replaced by "Old Town" and Carl Sandburg Village (above).



Uptown Chicago Commission's map of proposed land use in the Uptown area. "The city's plan for the Uptown community can be traced as far back as 1962."

the people began to fight back. They had learned from Clark Street that urban renewal meant that they would have to move.

In the fall of 1969 over 250 families, led by Cha Cha Jimenez and the Young Lords Organization, occupied an empty lot on the corner of Halsted and Armitage (which had once been low-income housing) to protest the planned development of an exclusive tennis court. The people named the lot People's Park and demanded that the city build a park on the lot which could be used by the children who lived in the area. The city continued and stepped up their program, rents skyrocketed, and low-income housing became more and more scarce.

In May of 1969, a coalition of community groups, again led by Cha Cha Jimenez and the Young Lords Organization, occupied McCormick Theological Seminary, an influential backer of urban renewal in Lincoln Park. Among other demands, they requested $601,000, to be used for the rehabilitation and construction of low-income housing.

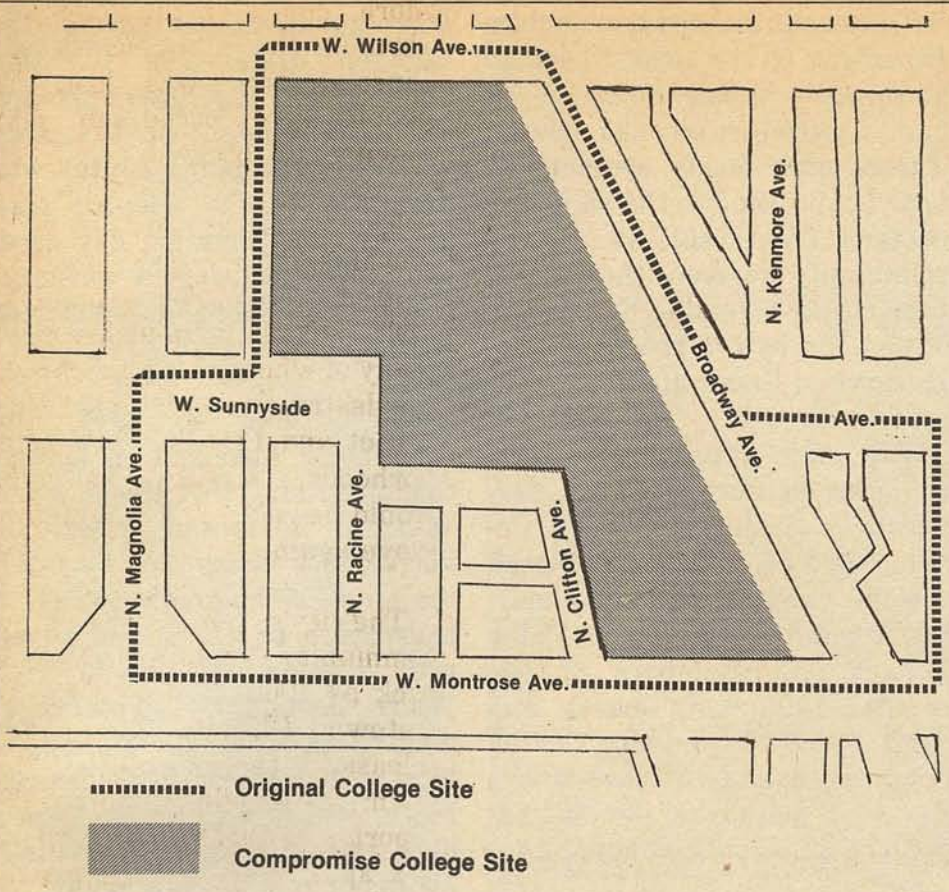
The city went on with its program of urban renewal and used the FBI and the Chicago police to arrest the leaders of the movement to save the Lincoln Park community. The community continuously attacked the city's plan, but was unable to prevent its implementation. As it became obvious that it was too late, that real control of any federal funds became more and more remote as the community shrunk, the struggle to save Lincoln Park was lost. The people were forced out, many moving to Uptown.

The battle against urban renewal on Chicago's northside shifted to Uptown around the year 1969. This time the people, many of whom had lived through the destruction of both the Clark Street and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, vowed that they would be ready. They would not move again.

The city's plan for the Uptown community can be traced as far back as 1962. In that year the Uptown Chicago Commission released a report entitled, "Uptown: A Planning Report." This report was the basis for the city's application for designation of Uptown as a conservation area and to receive federal funds to undertake urban renewal projects in the Uptown area.

This plan centered around three projects: the development of a local convenience shopping center in the Wilson-Sheridan area, the establishment of a major insurance complex in the Lawrence-Sheridan area and the construction of Truman College and renewal of the surrounding area bounded by Broadway, Clark, Montrose and Lawrence."

Since the beginning of the struggle against urban renewal in Uptown, the community has pursued a duel strategy of opposing the various projects of the city's plan by any means necessary and at each step of the way suggesting an alternative plan which would serve the direct interests of the people



who lived in the Uptown community.

In 1969 the city began the development of what was to be Truman College. The original boundaries were to be from the east side of Magnolia Street to Wilson Avenue, to Broadway to Sunnyside to Sheridan Road to Montrose to Magnolia. This was to mean the displacement of about 4,000 families. The community bitterly opposed the construction of the college and were finally able to win a compromise, decreasing the size of the college at the cost of over 2,000 units of housing.

During this period, Voice of the People, led by Irene Hutchison, proposed three alternative sites for the college which would have saved this housing. In addition, the community put together the innovative "village plan" for the area that the college was to be constructed on. This plan called for the rehabilitation of the housing in the area, in addition to the construction of a grassy mall and a community center. Architectural drawings were prepared, and the plan was taken to the Model Cities Council for approval. It was rejected, except for the Mall, which was changed from a grassy mall to a concrete slab. The college was built in spite of strong community resistance. It was contained somewhat, a small victory.

On December 19, 1974, the coalition submitted their plan to the Model Cities Council for funding. It was rejected, largely through the work of Peter Tomase and Herbert Lowinger, both working under the direction of ward boss Ralph Axelrod. The people, however, also won a victory when they were able to get the city to scrap its idea for a shopping center in the area.

The defeat of the shopping center plan marked the first time that people on the northside were able to stop an aspect of the city's urban renewal plan.

Soon after the aldermanic election of 1975, the people of

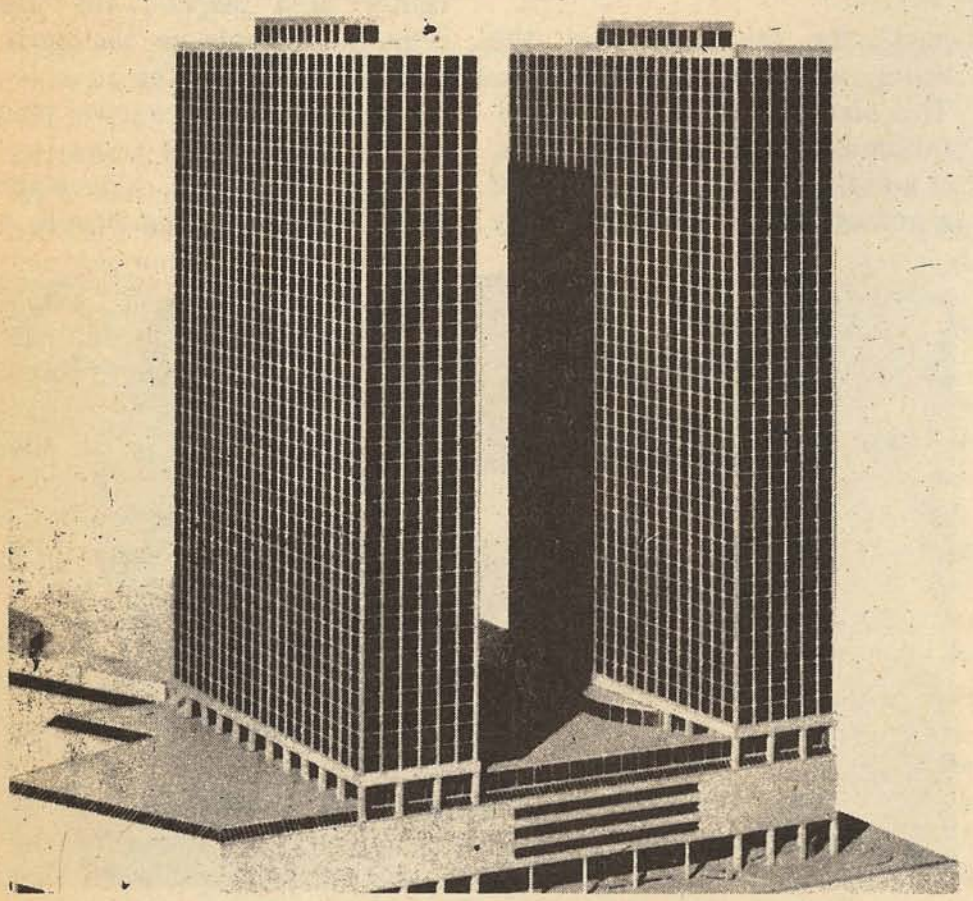
Voice of the People, led by Irene Hutchison (above), proposed three alternative sites for the college which would have saved this housing.

Uptown were faced with a new challenge, this time in the person of William Thompson, the mayor's ex-son-in-law. Thompson, with the cooperation and assistance of the city, had begun to buy up land between Montrose and Irving Park, on Broadway and Sheridan Road at an alarming rate. By the summer of 1975 he had already destroyed the Montrose Beach Apartment building with its 300 units of low-income housing and was in the process of evicting all of the tenants from the Broadway courtyard buildings at 4213-47 N. Broadway, which he had recently purchased from HUD.

In 1973, the late Mayor Daley announced plans to build 15 shopping centers in the Chicago area. One of them was to be built in Uptown in an area bounded by Broadway on the west, Sheridan on the east, Wilson on the south and Lawrence on the north. There was much community-based opposition to the shopping center. The residents of the community formed the broad-based Anti-Shopping Center Coalition, led by the Intercommunal Survival Committee.

The main supporters of the shopping center were, not surprisingly, Alderman Chris Cohen, ward committeeman Ralph Axelrod and Model Cities housing committee chairman Peter Tomase, all members of the regular Democratic party machine. The Anti-Shopping Center Coalition held two mass meetings and numerous demonstrations, in addition to conducting a door to door survey in the affected area. The Coalition presented an alternative plan for the development of the area where the shopping center was to be built. The people's plan included facilities for day care, low-income housing, a construction trade school and a multi-use recreation center.

On October 8, 1975, the community filed suit in federal court, claiming that the city and William Thompson were involved in a conspiracy to drive them out of the neighborhood, a conspiracy to change a mixed poor community into a rich White community. This legal action prevented Thompson from constructing Pensacola Place, which was to be luxury high rise apartments intended for upper middle class people.

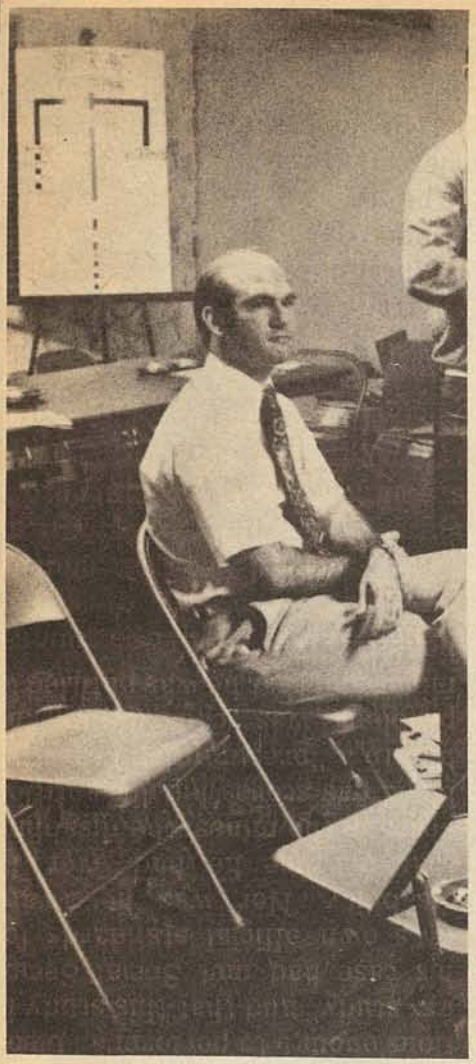


The community's suit has prevented Thompson from constructing Pensacola Place (above), which was to be luxury high rise apartments intended for upper middle class people.

The high level of community opposition to the city's master-plan for Uptown, the Thompson suit (Avery vs. the City of Chicago), and the building by building organizing of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, produced a temporary stalemate in Uptown. No new developments were announced, except for the continued expansion of Truman College, which had been expected by the community.

However, the housing continued to deteriorate, arson increased, and available federal funds were put into doing studies, surveys or into running bogus housing programs and referral services like those operated by organizations like Hull House and the Organization of the Northeast (ONE).

In October of 1977, community residents formed the Heart of



The Anti-Shopping Center Coalition meeting with former alderman Chris Cohen.

Uptown Block Club Coalition. The announced purpose of the Coalition was to make one last ditch effort to bring some federal funds into the Uptown community which would have a real effect and improve the conditions of the community for the people who lived in Uptown.

The Block Club Coalition set up meetings on each block in Uptown to determine the needs of the block, elected a Steering Committee to present these needs to the city and then submitted their plans to the community, having people sign a petition supporting their efforts. The goal was to get at least 51% majority support from each block in Uptown. This was easily achieved.

In January of 1978, the community submitted their development plan to the city to save Uptown for the people who live in it. This plan called for an ambitious program of housing rehabilitation and new construction of low-income housing, development of recreational facilities, youth centers, parking lots and a community production center to provide much-needed jobs. The basic concept was that the people in the community should be hired to do this work, thereby providing an extra stimulus to the economic situation in Uptown.

In February 1978, Ralph Axelrod, along with the Uptown Chicago Commission, Organization of the Northeast, Hull House Association and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce reintroduced to the city the idea of constructing a shopping center in Uptown, with Ralph Axelrod vowing to permit no more low or moderate income housing to be constructed in Uptown. In May of 1978, the community received word from the city that they were in basic agreement with the community in terms of the buildings which were identified in need of rehab. The city said that they would now be willing to discuss ways in which this rehab could be accomplished.

At about the same time the community received word that federal court Judge John Crowly had ruled that there was in fact a

The next year or two should determine the long-range future of Uptown. If the community is able to strengthen its block clubs and able to secure federal money to rehab its housing, Uptown can be saved for the poor people who now live here.

basis in law to the community claim that Thompson and the city of Chicago were involved in a conspiracy to destroy Uptown and change it to a White middle class area. If the case could be proven in court, Thompson and other private developers could be stopped in Uptown.

The community of Uptown, after a long history of fighting the city's urban renewal plans, now finds itself in a very unique situation: for the first time in all of the history of the fight against urban renewal, the community plan was not rejected outright, the city may or can be forced into spending some of the available money on low-income housing.

In addition, the landmark ruling in the Thompson suit offers the community a possible weapon to fight private developers seeking to participate in the urban renewal process.

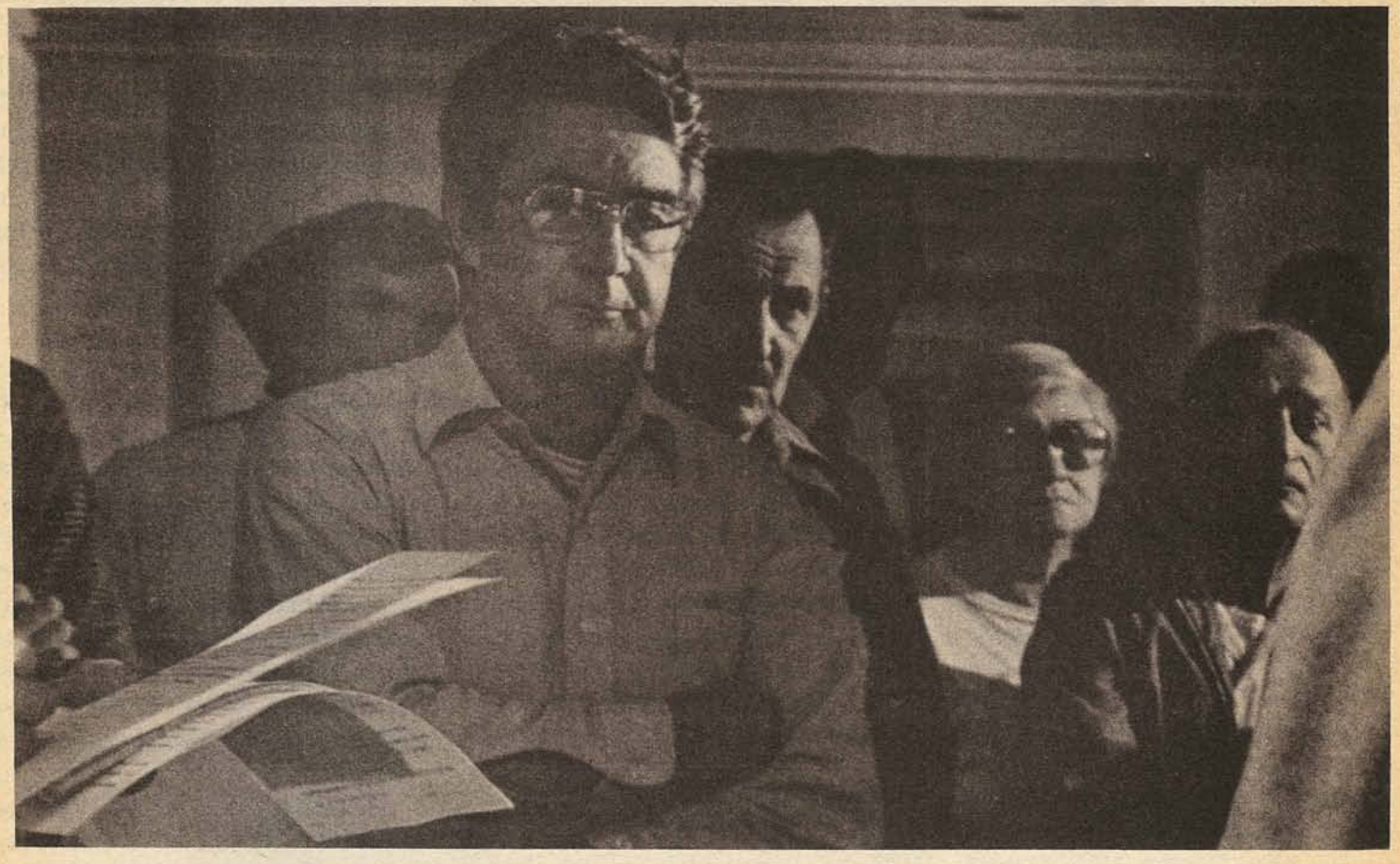
The supporters of the urban renewal program, the regular democratic political organization, the Uptown Chicago Commission, and the current leadership of the various middle class organizations like ONE and Hull House have offered a plan which will create no housing, only a shopping center. In fact, these organizations have asked the city to put a 20% ceiling on the number of subsidized units in all of the rehabbed or new buildings which may be built. This will have the effect of insuring that none of this housing will go to current Uptown residents, the same plan that was released in 1962.

The next year or two should determine the long range future of Uptown. If the community is able to strengthen its block clubs. and able to secure some of the federal money to rehab its housing, Uptown can be saved for the poor people who now live there.

However, if the regular machine led by Ralph Axelrod and the major banks in the community are able to divide the community and build the shopping center while continuing to destroy more low-income housing and attract more developers like Thompson, then once again the community will be forced to move, and Uptown will become a White middle class community. It remains to be seen who will win the battle for Uptown.□

Uptown Health Clinic: A Model Of Community Struggle

A LITTLE LONGER A LITTLE STRONGER



CABLA and Tenants Union members downtown at a press conference to demand that Mayor Bilandic fire Board of Health director Murray Brown.

In February 1977 the Chicago Area Black Lung Association and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union approached the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission with a request that the governing commission use funds it had available in its outreach program to establish a comprehensive family health clinic with a special facility for black lung (in the Uptown community.)

The initial response of the governing commission was positive. Their philosophy, they said, was to establish clinics based on an expressed need in the community coupled with a concerned community that was interested in taking responsibility for forming a community board and actively participating in the project. Things looked very encouraging.

Suddenly, the city of Chicago's Board of Health director Murray Brown became concerned. Up-

Community activist Helen Shiller and other Uptown residents demand to see Mayor Bilandic regarding a new health clinic in Uptown.

town, he said, was already overserved and under utilized and besides that, there is no such thing as black lung. The community, not willing to give up the possibility of the clinic they knew they so badly needed, was put on the defensive, and an energetic offensive campaign began.

By March 13, 1977 the stalling had already begun. At their monthly membership meeting with over 100 representatives present, the Chicago Area Black Lung Association passed the resolution which signaled the beginning of a strong community coalition that in the end would have its clinic.

Resolved: "The Chicago Area Black Lung Association is wholeheartedly in support of the establishment of a neighborhood clinic in Uptown under the direction of the Department of Medicine of Cook County Hospital and that within that neighborhood clinic there should be a special facility providing diagnostic service to black lung victims. In view of the tragic situation facing claimants for black lung benefits in Chicago, and in view of the urgent need for a health facility in Uptown willing and able to meet all the health cares of the community, and willing and able to be responsive to the desires of the community, we demand that this clinic be established promptly. We also support the establishment of a community board to set policies for the clinic and for substantial representation for members of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association on all matters relating to health problems of former coal miners."

By April 18, 1977 it had become clear that Murray Brown's opposition was not going to subside without community pressure. Claiming publicly that "Uptown has too much health care" and "There is no black lung in Uptown," it became apparent that Brown's interests lay in defending his agency's own health clinic on Hazel and Wilson Aves. in Uptown. "The opening of a new health center," he said, "would be a duplication of services."

So, on that day in April, a well-attended press conference, held in front of Mayor Bilandic's City Hall office, called for Murray Brown's resignation. The group demanded that the mayor appoint someone to replace Brown who would be concerned about delivering health care services to the neighborhoods of Chicago.

By May, the Black Lung Association received the results of an autopsy done on a CABLA member who had died just as the health clinic struggle began in March. Jose Galvan's autopsy showed pneumoconiosis, fibrosis, anthracosis and cor pulmonal, all of which are related to black lung disease. A check into his records showed that Jose Galvan had been to the Board of Health Clinic in 1975 where he specifically requested to be checked out for black lung disease because, as he said at the time to the attending medical personnel, in the past doctors had diagnosed him as positive for pneumoconiosis. Mr. Galvan was given an X-ray. It was read as negative by the clinic doctors and he was sent home.

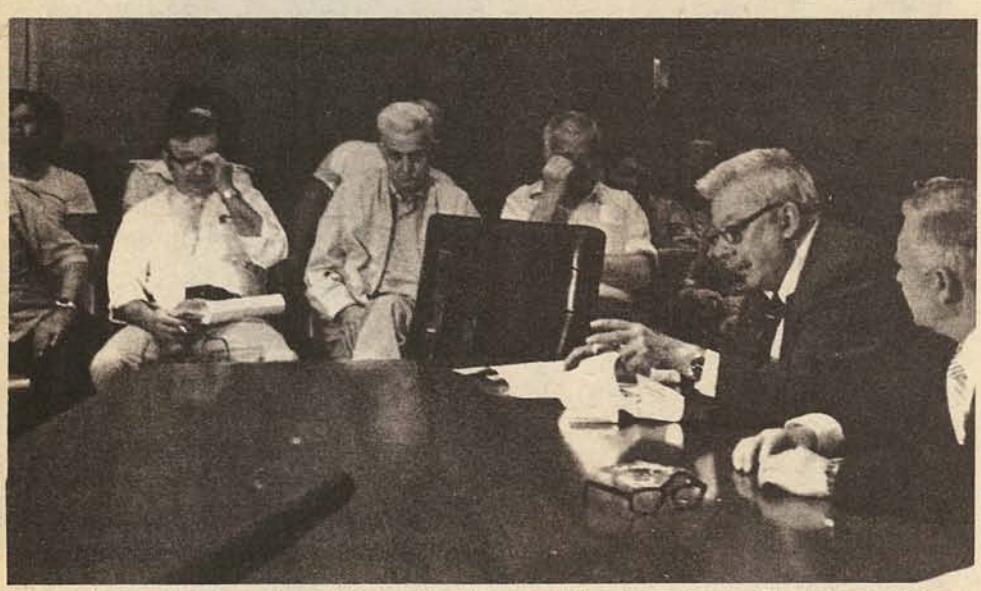
Armed with indignation and having received additional opposition from the Board of Health director, over 100 repre-

sentatives from the Black Lung Association and the Tenants Union gathered once again at Bilandic's office on May 26, 1977. Although shunned by the mayor, who quickly side-stepped his way to an elevator and out of sight, the delegation refused to leave until they were able to deliver their statement to someone from the mayor's office in person. Citing Board of Health statistics documenting the serious health problems that exist in the Uptown community, the delegation demanded of the mayor's administrative assistant that the mayor instruct his health official to remove opposition to this proposed health clinic.

Volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians staffed the Community Health Fair. Over 300 people were screened in four hours for glaucoma, simple diabetes and kidney problems.

By July the community had found a suitable location for the clinic that was favored by the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. What remained was to convince them that a clinic was truly needed and that it would not be a duplication of services. The truth had to be put unquestionably before them in a manner that could not be ignored.

To demonstrate this need the Uptown People's Community Service Center conducted an extensive community survey during the month of July to determine the specific health needs of the Uptown community. Over 2,000 people were seen and questioned. Only 23% of the people interviewed stated they were in good health. 47% complained of some kind of respiratory ailment. While 53% of the people said they had never been to the board of health clinic, all those who had been there (whether they liked the services they received or not) concurred that waiting times for appointments usually were as long as three weeks and that at the walk-in clinic a four or five hour waiting period, and often longer, was common in their experience. Clearly, the Board of Health clinic could not alone cater to the great demand for health care present in the Uptown community.



Murray Brown being confronted regarding his opposition to a new health clinic in Uptown.

On August 13, a community Health Fair was held as part of the annual Survival Day event that has become an accepted feature of Uptown life. Staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians from Cook County Hospital, back-to-school physicals and immunizaitons for school children were offered while over 300 people were screened in four hours for glaucoma, other basic eye problems, simple diabetes and kidney

problems, anemia and lead poisoning. The doctors present judged 32% of those screened to be in need of some type of clinical follow-up.

Then on September 20, with previous assurance that the governing commission was ready to make its decision to go ahead with the controversial clinic, over 250 community residents attended the monthly meeting of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission to make their presentation. In spite of a thorough documentation of the need for the clinic and an impressive cross section of written support from political, religious and labor leaders who could not themselves attend, the commission voted to investigate the request further and to go back to the Board of Health to negotiate. The angry delegation affirmed their determination not to go away never to be heard from again, and the next round began.

While it seemed that the county was resistant to go ahead with the clinic against the wishes of Murray Brown, it was clear that Murray Brown could not change his mind. So a way had to be found to change the mind of the county. How could the community give the governing commission an offer they couldn't refuse even in the face of Murray Brown's political clout?

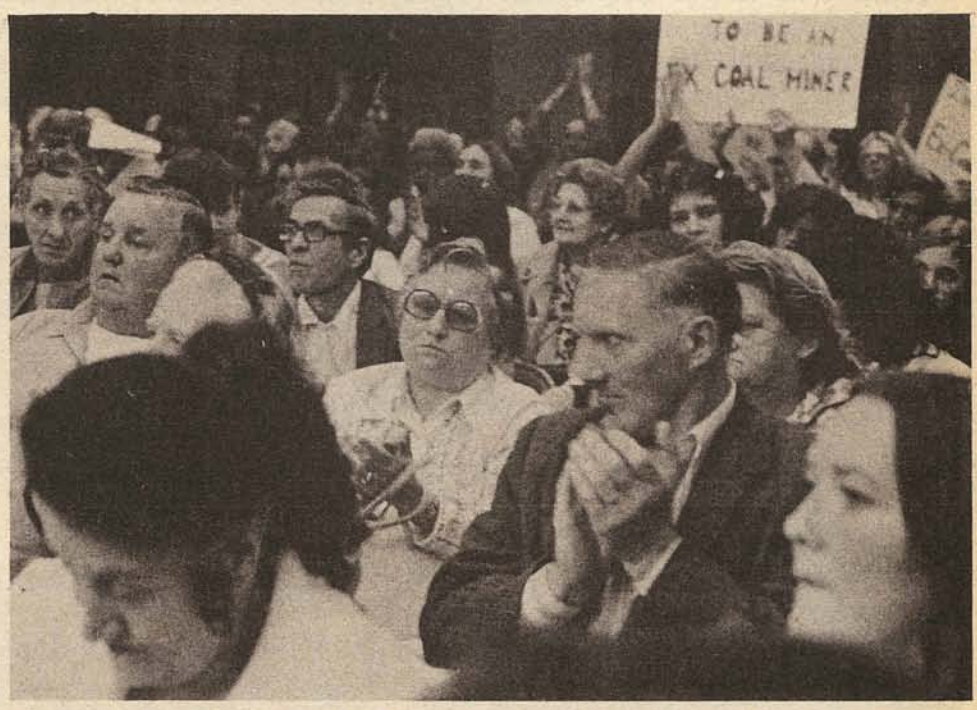
Enlisting the services of community activist Helen Shiller, an application was prepared to the federal government's Department of Health, Education and Welfare for doctors to be assigned to the proposed clinic by their National Health Service Corps. These doctors are paid for by the federal government and are assigned to provide health care in areas that the federal government has determined are medically underserved.

Again the task was to prove that Uptown was a medically underserved area. Statistics for the area were found to be misleading. As Ms. Shiller point-out in her request for this important designation:

"Uptown is located on Chicago's far north side. It is by all standards a deteriorating, deprived community. In fact, there are two Uptowns in Chicago. The first and best known is that community which exists at the core of the larger area defined by the city and by the U.S. Census as the Uptown area. It is a community with some of the highest unemployment, the worst housing, the least adequate medical care, and the highest crime rate in the entire city. Surrounding that core of Uptown, there is a community with higher than average incomes, high-rise housing on the lake, above average employment opportunity and a high stability relative to the other Uptown. It is that division within Uptown that belies the statistics about unemployment, health, income, education and other areas that have determined the course of development plans for the entire area...

"It is our feeling that because of the diverse nature of this community and because of its particular problems especially related to health care and the many other conditions contributing to a poor state of health in the community, the existing guidelines for determining a medically underserved area need to be taken with a grain of salt in this instance."

The target area, Ms. Shiller, explained, had to be defined by the first Uptown showing the real statistics for this area in



250 community residents attend the monthly meeting of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission of Cook County Hospital.

order that the needs of this community be truthfully reflected. Taking the real statistics for Uptown and comparing them with those of two communities that had already been designated medically underserved by the federal government, Ms. Shiller was able to show that in every area (number of families below the poverty level, number of families receiving public aid, annual average unemployment rate, total number of disabled persons, infant mortality rates, number of deaths from all causes, new cases of venereal disease, number of cases of lead poisoning reported for children under age 7), Uptown had by far many more people who fell under each category.

Her extensive investigation, including an extensive phone and door to door canvass of all existing doctors and medical personnel in the area, received a strong recommendation by the City of Chicago Health Systems Agency for designation as a medically underserved area. (HSA is the agency responsible for planning health services throughout Chicago, and their recommendation is requested by the federal government.)

Designation and assignment of doctors and other medical personnel was soon to follow. By May 1978, the Governing Commission had the ammunition it needed to buck the Board of Health and Murray Brown. The lease was signed, and the long but determined community struggle is close to bearing fruit.

"Over the next month and a half," says Helen Shiller, now secretary of the diverse and active community board for the clinic, "we will be hiring the clinic personnel and beginning an extensive pre-registration campaign. By the end of July we expect to be situated and prepared for the grand opening on August 5. Between now and then we expect to pre-register several thousand people who will then be able to walk into the clinic and immediately get the medical care that they so badly need and have so staunchly fought for."

Site of new Uptown health clinic on North Broadway near Lawrence Avenue.

The winning of the Uptown clinic has been considered by some who participated from the beginning to be a continuation of a much longer struggle for neighborhood control of community health facilities in Chicago. As one community person points out, Murray Brown has been active in opposing community control going back to his opposition of the free clinic struggle in the late '60's. At that time he was responsible for legislation passed by the Chicago city council that so severely restricted the ability of the free clinics to function that many feel this was the beginning of the end for those who pioneered community controlled health care in Chicago.

The new Uptown clinic is expected to the largest neighborhood clinic of its kind in the country. But most important, it will be directed by a community board that successfully represents the broad diversity of the many people it expects to serve.

"We have come a long way in what seems to be a never ending battle with Murray Brown. He effectively forced the free clinic movement in the '60's to end, and he has made sure that those clinics controlled by the Board of Health would never be subject to community control — witness the non-existent community board at the Board of Health's Uptown clinic. But we have certainly taken a little longer to become a little stronger, and this time we will run the show," said one community observer.□

"She Won The Hearts Of The People."

HELEN SHILLER: PART OF THE NEW OPPOSITION

On May 16, Helen Shiller gave the 46th ward machine organization its most serious challenge in decades when she collected 35% of the vote in the three-way race for the ward's city council seat. According to Ms. Shiller, the special election to fill the vacated seat gave her the opportunity to run an "organizing campaign" in preparation for the regular election next February.

"It was a golden opportunity and at the same time a serious risk," Ms. Shiller said. "If we had made a poor showing, it would have been difficult to muster support for the election in February. We had only a few short weeks to prepare. But the opportunity to build a ward-wide organization under fire, just nine months before the regular election, was too important to pass up. We took a risk and came out way ahead.

"My campaign won support from every area of the ward — on the lakefront, in Ravenswood, in Lakeview and, of course, in Uptown, where we finally broke the stranglehold of fear that the machine had had in that area for as long as I can remember. The structure of a powerful new opposition is now in place and filled with serious, wonderful people from all parts of the ward. We will landslide to victory next February."

Helen Shiller: "We will landslide to victory next February."

Campaign Clarifies The Issues

Ms. Shiller's machine opponent stated that this election was to be "the most important election in the history of the 46th ward, because you must choose between the established order and a new challenge to it." Ms. Shiller agreed and proceeded to define the issues in remarkably clear and specific terms.

In each area of the ward she documented the specific lack of city services most affecting those residents. She pointed out that the cause of this lack of services was the politics of "bossism and favoritism" that dominates the ward. Services are afforded to those who "know

somebody," she charged, "while the majority of residents are left out in the cold."

But the main theme of Helen Shiller's campaign was "neighborhoods first." Even the woeful lack of services could be traced to the regular machine's determination to hand over the ward to cronies in real estate speculation and build up the downtown area at the desperate expense of the neighborhoods.

"My opponent has publicly stated again and again that he will follow the policies of Mayor Bilandic and the men downtown. His commitment is to their plan to realize enormous profits on downtown development while we live in quickly deteriorating neighborhoods. We deserve a locally elected official who will respond to the issues defined by the people who live in the many communities and neighborhoods that exist in this ward, and not defined by the men downtown whose interests lie elsewhere." Those she reached in the short time allotted before the special election overwhelmingly agreed.

Many Points Of Ward Unity

The machine at first virtually conceded the central area of the ward, where the conditions of neighborhood deterioration and unemployment are the most serious. Their candidate announced early in the campaign that "Shiller is probably the best candidate for the central area, but she cannot represent the people in the rest of the ward." The results showed she could.

Ms. Shiller campaigned hard in the western and eastern areas of the ward, speaking to over

The main theme of the campaign was "Neighborhoods First!" At a community development hearing (above), Helen Shiller presented a concrete proposal for community development in the 46th ward.

1,500 residents in coffee groups of 10 to 20 people each. In these areas the voters found her well informed on the issues and particular problems that confronted them.

She could speak knowledgeably about the problems Lake Shore Drive residents have had in getting bus shelters and the problems of people on fixed incomes facing condominium conversions. She had studied carefully the community development proposals of honest citizen groups in Ravenswood, and her experience as a veteran community organizer allowed her to make helpful suggestions and provide valuable information. She had a wealth of information for small businessmen and small landlords who are being forced out of the area by big investors.

In short, people in every part of the 46th ward suffer from the degeneracy of machine control and were overjoyed to find an enthusiastic candidate who understood their problems, was willing to listen and who had innovative, practical solutions to suggest and the energy to see

Helen Shiller with Ellis Levin.

them implemented. Ms. Shiller made respectable showings in the high rise precincts where those who had labeled her "merely a community candidate" thought she would be overwhelmed, and she won several of those difficult precincts. Her showing in the western areas of the ward surpassed all recent independent campaigns.

The Machine Becomes Desperate

Realizing that the Shiller campaign was gaining momentum throughout the ward and that the theme of "justice for the neighborhoods" was striking a popular chord, the machine produced mudslinging and intimidation where it was defeated on the issues. A vicious slander campaign was launched by an army of precinct workers brought in from other ward organizations. Where slander didn't work, teams of four and five thugs visited people with Shiller posters in their widows. And finally, on election day, the cash flowed like wine.

They were unable to discredit the tough, popular independent candidate. Her record of achievement in developing a new health center, a housing and community development program, a full-time service center and in successfully fighting speculators and slumlords spoke for itself. Hundreds of unpaid volunteers told her story door to door, house to house. And a fine list of endorsements from independent leaders and organizations including Bill Singer, Ellis Levin, Harold Washington and the Independent Voters of Illinois struck the heart out of the slanderous attacks. In the closing days of the campaign, Ms. Shiller received the prestigious *Sun-Times* endorsement. By election day, it was clear Helen Shiller had survived the worst the machine could dish out.

Winning The Heart Of Uptown

Perhaps most moving of all was the clear victory Ms. Shiller won in the Heart of Uptown community. There, where she has lived and worked for the last eight years, the issues were the clearest in the ward. Through petty occasional favors, a meager scattering of desperately needed jobs, bribes, false promises and most of all through intimidation and fear, the machine had maintained a strong control of the voters for many years. In return, the machine had aided the speculators and slumlords in their criminally scandalous destruction of housing and had withheld the services and programs so necessary to the survival of the Uptown community.

Perhaps some do not understand the courage it takes for a mother of four children on welfare to spit in the face of a

A list of endorsements from independent leaders and organizations, including Harold Washington (above), Bill Singer, Woody Bowman and the Independent Voters of Illinois struck the heart out of slanderous attacks.

STOP THIS

Before it Happens to You

VOTE TUESDAY!

Elect HELEN ***Shiller***

VOTE TUESDAY!

Sun-Times Endorses HELEN SHILLER!

- CITES HER "INNOVATIVE, PRACTICAL IDEAS" AND CONCERN FOR WARD SERVICES
- TERMS OPPONENT "NOT PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE

Sun-Times Friday, May 12, 1978 **Editorials**

"Axelrod has been amiable but not particularly effective in his five years as the ward's Democratic committeeman. There are depressing pockets of crumbling housing and woefully inadequate city services.

"Because of her deep concern for these problems and her innovative, practical ideas for dealing with them, we recommend **Helen Shiller.** She has a number of sound proposals for strengthening neighborhoods."

ENDORSED BY:

BILL SINGER

MARTIN OBERMAN

ELLIS LEVIN

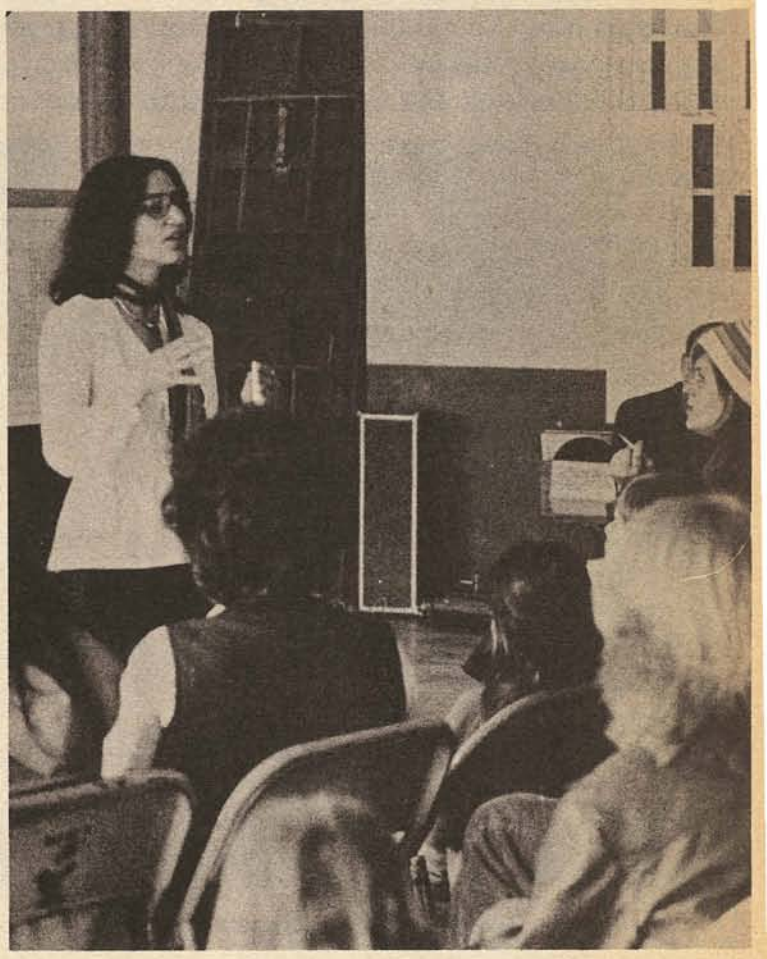
HAROLD WASHINGTON

WOODY BOWMAN

MIRIAM BALANOFF

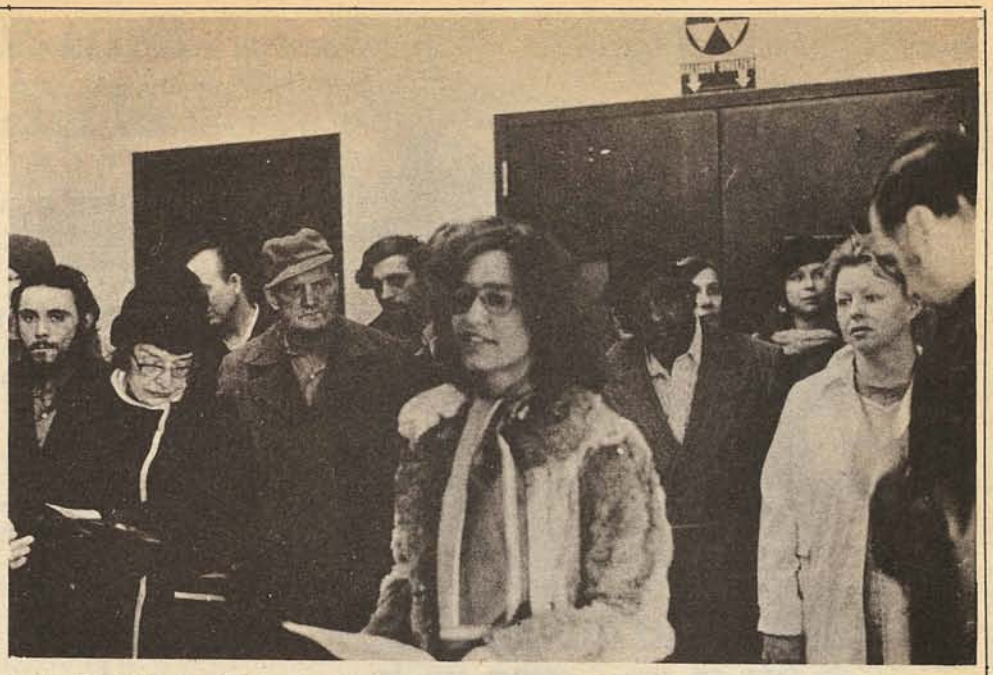
BARBARA CURRY

and the INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF ILLINOIS



precinct captain who threatens to have her cut off of welfare if she does not vote "with the organization." Perhaps some do not understand the pressures that can be put on a family man who has been laid off of work or disabled on the job. Perhaps some cannot imagine what it takes to withstand the terror of thugs at your door if you are a woman living alone.

But on May 16, the people of the Heart of Uptown spoke out loudly over the vote fraud, threats and stolen votes to say that they would cast their collective vote for their own candidate, the people's candidate, Helen Shiller.



Not only did Helen Shiller establish new lines of communication and break old stereotypes in the 46th ward, her campaign united a very serious, effective opposition force in the city for the first time in years.

The New Opposition

The machine has maintained its tyranny of total political control mainly because it divided the opposition: the stable working class areas against the poor and the minorities, the Catholics against the Jews, the high rise dwellers against the low-income renters and homeowners, the employed against the unemployed. Not only did Helen Shiller establish new lines of communication and break old stereotypes in the 46th ward, her campaign united every serious, effective opposition force in the city for the first time in years.

Helen Shiller speaking to mothers at Stockton Child-Parent Center.

Southside independents and northside independents offered their joint support. Opposition leaders from the Black community like former mayoral candidate and now State Senator Harold Washington came and campaigned door to door for her, as did former White independent mayoral candidate Bill Singer. Even independent republicans joined with independent democrats, and support from Latino community activists, and trade union leaders rounded out the picture.

While the special election campaign will undoubtedly prove to have been an effective tactical move toward victory in the February elections, its significance for the city as a whole may be even more far-reaching. If the forces that combined to back Helen Shiller can find their

Pages 41-42 ripped out.

Pages 41-42 ripped out.

Miriam Balanoff

voted against what the people in his own community needed. That was the image that Giglio had, and that's who we beat.

"In the first campaign we felt that a labor candidate could win. The machine said at that time that a labor candidate couldn't win. They said, 'It's never been done, and it can't be done.' But we stuck strictly to labor. And we attacked the incumbent, Giglio, who has a very poor voting record on labor issues. In fact, that particular label of being anti-labor stuck with him to the very end — he couldn't shake it.

"In 1976 we emphasized jobs, layoffs in steel, inflation, sales tax off food and medicine. In the second campaign we moved away from that. We felt that we had the image, and we do. We emphasized consumer issues, high utility rates and other things that are bothering people. You gotta make people see that it's in their economic interest. People worry about their stomachs first. I may not like it but that's the way life is.

"Also this time we made good coalitions in the Black community, mainly in the 9th ward but also somewhat in the 21st and the 8th wards. And we hit on issues there that affect the community, a lot of which are not different from the rest. We talked about mortgage and insurance redlining. In the 9th ward the Roseland area has a huge number of abandoned buildings. That was an important issue and the use of Title I funds (for the educationally disadvantaged) outside of the areas they were designated for. One of the things we have been trying to work out is how can we bring together a coalition among such diverse kinds of communities."

It is clear that important lessons have been learned over the last ten years of fighting. And those lessons have been made concrete and put to work directly in the community in building a new permanent opposition.

"Look at the 1960's. People couldn't have beaten the machine if we wanted to. The atmosphere wasn't there. Things have changed in the seventies and people are looking for answers. There is no guarantee that they are going to find the right answers. They found the wrong answer in Germany in the 1930's. It's only going to be guaranteed by a lot of people. But not individuals either.

"The purpose of getting independents elected is not just to have someone that's voting the right way in the legislature, but to organize people in the community around issues that concern them.

"It wasn't Miriam who won. We won. A lot of people won. She's here to represent us. If she doesn't represent us, we'll put somebody else in. When people can say, look, we want this or else you won't be in office next time, I guarantee you the politicians will stop and think about it more than once.

"We're in a district that has 99.99 percent working and poor people. None of the bosses live in the community. None of the owners of the factories. The foremen do but they're not really the bosses. We have had a representative that represents corporate interests. The state representative for the district ought to represent working people, and that's what Miriam is all about.

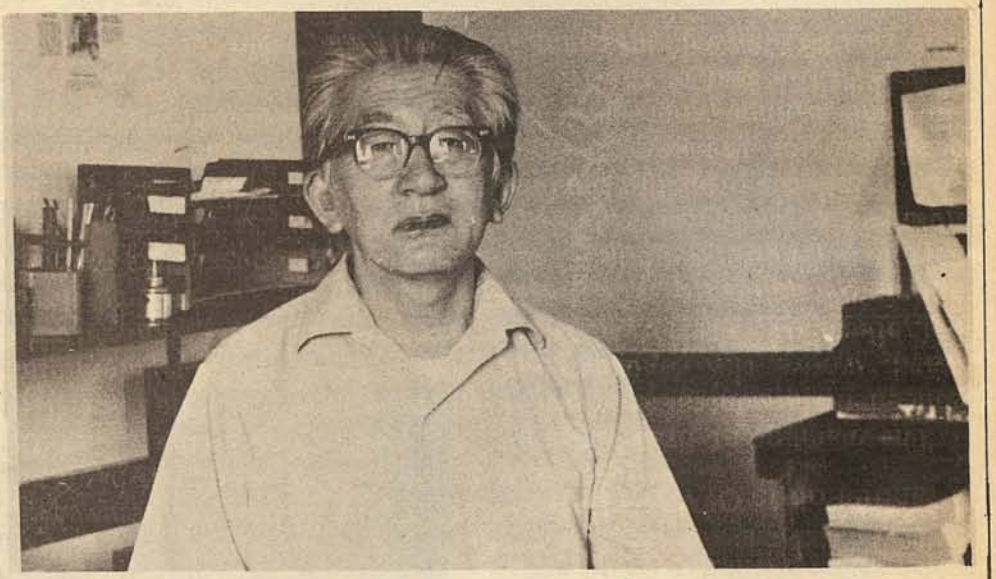
"There are ties between Steel Workers Fight Back. Our perspective is, 'Sure we are people on the move in the steel workers union. It's the same people who live in the community. I don't think that the trade union movement is the whole ball of wax for solving people's problems. Neither is the political arena. But that's an area where there is political power. There is power for people, and people ought to have that power. We're capable of getting it."□

A Japanese-American Speaks Of Internment In U.S. Concentration Camps During World War II

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

In the spring of 1942, following the invasion of Pearl Harbor, the government of the United States began the removal and internment of 110,000 Japanese-Americans to "relocation camps."

In the following KEEP STRONG *interview, Berry Suzukida, a Japanese-American, tells of the three years he spent in U.S. government camps during World War II.*



Berry Suzukida

KEEP STRONG: Was it a surprise to you when the Japanese-Americans were ordered to the internment camps?

BERRY SUZUKIDA: No. It was very similar to what it must be like now for the people in South Africa. There were all sorts of restrictions and curfews placed on us. There was discrimination in the press. The Hearst press was always against the Japanese, against any minority group like the Filipinos and the Chinese. The Japanese were considered the "yellow peril." There would always be stories about how bad the Japanese were.

So we knew it was coming. My folks had a restaurant. The state of California took our license away so we couldn't sell anything. We just had to stay opened and not have any customers. For two or three months we were paying rent and just marking time, wondering what to do. We were on "pins and needles," always worrying.

KS: How was the internment explained or justified to the Japanese-Americans?

BS: Actually, there was no explanation given. There were just notices put up on telephone poles saying all people of Japanese ancestry must report to such and such station on a certain day and then go to camp. It was a proclamation that President Roosevelt issued. Roosevelt issued it because the general in charge of the Western Defense Command, General DeWitt, asked for it.

I suppose it was a case of what

they considered military necessity, although there was not a single case of sabotage committed by the Japanese in all of the United States — not even in Hawaii where the Pearl Harbor attack took place. So at the time we weren't told why. We were just put in the camps.

KS: Do you know of any resistance by Japanese-Americans to being placed in the camps?

BS: Nobody resisted. We felt it was our duty as good American citizens to go to the camps and cooperate with them. Of the 110,000 people that went into camps, I only know of two or three that fought against it and sued for their rights.

KS: Describe the conditions people in the camps lived under.

BS: We had no idea what was going to happen to us. Some even thought it might be like an outing. Our family went to Santa Anita Race Track. It was terrible. There were 20,000 people cramped in that small place. About half of us were living in horse stables that were just recently vacated and still stunk.

My family was lucky enough to be put into the new barracks that were recently constructed, like army barracks. My mother, myself and three brothers were living in a space less than the size of this room (about 15 feet x 12 feet). We had army cots all around the room. There was barely enough room to move around and no privacy at all.

At least it had a window and a door so it wasn't like being cooped up in a prison. But still, you lose your freedom, and

Japanese-Americans being led to internment camp during World War II. "There were no explanations given. There were just notices put up on telephone poles saying all people of Japanese ancestry must report. . . and then go to camp."

"They had a barbed wire enclosure all around the camp, and watchtowers and soldiers with machine guns. It was just like a concentration camp."

that's something else. They had a barbed wire enclosure all around the camp and watchtowers and soldiers with machine guns. It was just like a concentration camp.

Our family was given a number. Mine was 18257. I don't have it branded on my arm like the Jewish people in Europe, but still it's a number you never forget.

The first few months, I thought we were going to be starved. We got one pie pan with maybe a wiener and a potato — all on one plate. Finally the Red Cross came to the rescue. They said, "You can't treat Japanese aliens that way." They didn't even consider us citizens, so we got their food. Until then, even the children didn't get milk, it was just the babies.

KS: Was Santa Anita the only camp you were in?

BS: No, we were at Santa Anita from May 1, 1942 to September 30, 1942 — five months. Santa Anita was like an "assembly center" where they put us until they got the other places ready. I was in 10 different camps over three years.

When we were first transferred out of the Western Defense Command area, to Colorado, there were a lot of hardships. The washroom facilities were not completed, so we had to walk three or four blocks to the nearest shower and bathroom. In the summer it was awful. It was better in the winter because the cold cut down on the smell.

Outside of the Western Defense Command area we occasionally were allowed passes to go outside for a beer or a movie. I remember a town in Colorado called LeMar where there were signs in the window that said "No Japs Wanted." This prejudice followed us from camp to camp.

My mother passed away a year after she got out of camp. I still think that if she didn't go in

Soldier putting up internment notice. "When I look back on it, I don't feel any bitterness, just disappointment that the American system treated us this way. It was, I would say, partly economic, partly racism and of course, the wartime hysteria."

the camp she probably would still be alive.

It's a terrific woe when you lose your freedom. I'm an American citizen, and I tried to get an absentee ballot when there was an election. They said they wouldn't give it to me because an absentee ballot is given if you're going to return, and we had no hope of returning — no chance of returning.

KS: It must have been very difficult. What kind of things did you do while in the camps to keep your sanity?

BS: We had to maintain the camps. Everything was done by the evacuees. We did all the mess hall work, the cooking and the maintenance.

During World War II, there was a tremendous manpower shortage. As long as we were in the camps, the government thought they could get some work done. So they started the camouflage net project where we weaved camouflage nets. We worked eight hours a day and were paid $8 a month. In the summertime it got very hot, 110-115 degrees. My skin got as black as coca-cola. I didn't realize I could stand that much heat.

KS: How do you feel now about the internment of the Japanese people during World War II?

BS: When I look back on it, I don't feel any bitterness, just disappointment that the American system treated us this way. It was, I would say, partly economic, partly racism and of course, the wartime hysteria. I think the public pressure to put us in the camps must have been economic. Lots of Japanese were farmers. They produced quite a bit of California's produce and fruit, and I think that was a way of getting them out.

Not too many people even know about the fact that we were in the camps. It's been 36 years. The Japanese-American Citizen's League is trying to get some form of compensation for the people who were put in the camps. I don't know if they will succeed. The Alaskan Indians and Eskimos were finally paid for their land, and the Jewish people were compensated by the German government (the Bonn government) for billions of dollars.

KS: Can it happen again?

BS: We were scapegoats, they used us as an excuse. The idea of just corraling a whole bunch of people just for their ancestry is something that could happen again. I hope not. I don't like to see any other group of people be put away just for the color of their skin and their ancestry.□

National Perspective

Illinois ERA Boycott Gains Momentum

(Chicago, Ill.) As the vote on ERA by the Illinois State Legislature draws closer, the Chicago chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW), in a recently released report, estimates that more than $171 million has been lost to this city.

This loss is a direct result of organizations withholding their convention dollars from states that have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Chicago chapter's report was prepared in response to the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau's lower estimate that $20 million had been lost to Chicago's convention business as a result of the ERA boycott.

According to a NOW press release, the reasons for the differing figures are many. "First, they didn't consider all conventions cancelled. Next, they only counted one cancellation for organizations which would normally hold more than one convention here during the next eight years.

"In addition," the statement continues, "many organizations which held conventions here in the past will no longer consider returning to Chicago."

The boycott of conventions by ERA supporters has resulted in a $171 million loss to Chicago.

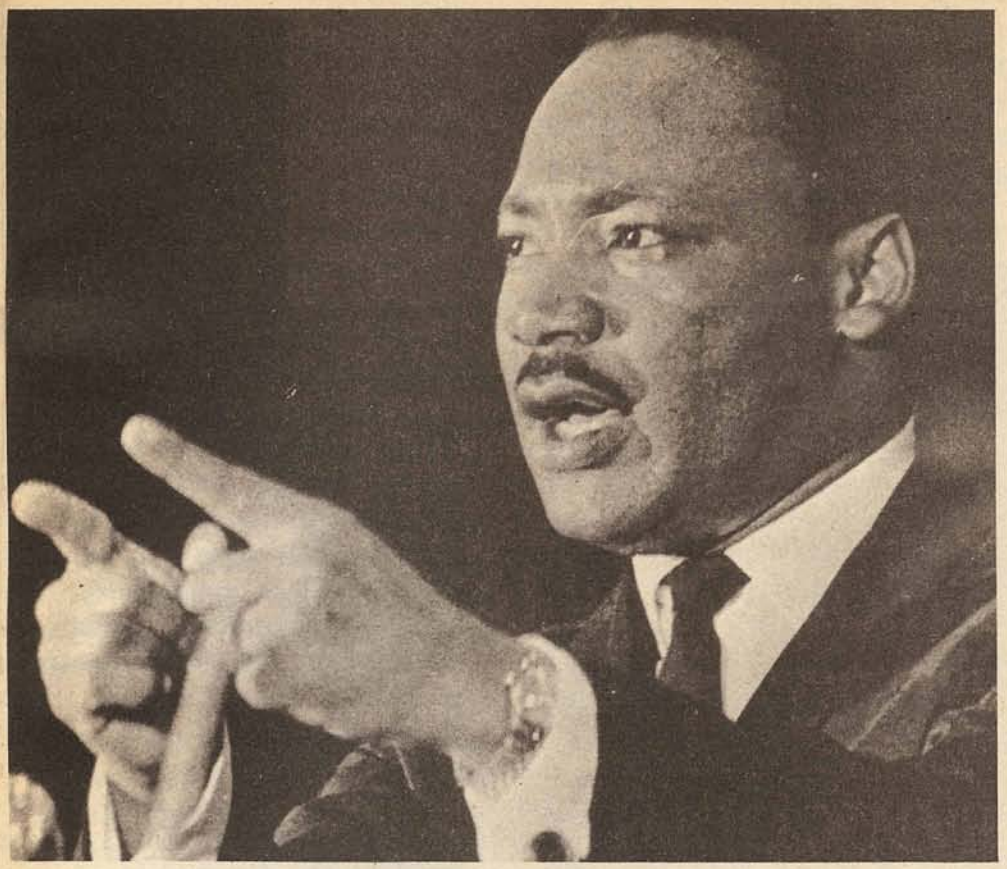
Finally, NOW points out, the Bureau's figures did not include retail spending, sporting events or local transportation expenditures by delegates. Nor did they include sales tax revenue generated by convention spending.

More than 170 organizations and 22 local government units have joined the boycott by voting not to hold conventions in states which have not ratified the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

The reason for this economic boycott is clearly summed up by the NOW press release. "We want to make it clear to everyone that ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is a national issue. No American woman will have Constitutional equality until three more states ratify the Amendment. The representatives of 75% of the people of this nation have already ratified ERA. The convention boycott of Illinois is a way that people from outside the state can express their outrage at the Illinois General Assembly's failure to ratify.

"In the near future, the Legislature will once again have the opportunity to consider ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Through their organization's support of the boycott, many thousands of Americans have indicated their support for ERA, and we hope that those legislators who have not voted in favor of ratification will reconsider their position on this vital issue."□

The FBI's New Phase Of COINTELPRO



More dirty tricks from the FBI?

(Chicago, Ill.) Recent FBI disclosures that a Black "civil rights leader" actively worked with the FBI to discredit Martin Luther King, Jr. have come under attack here as a continuation of the FBI "commitment to disrupt and destroy the Black movement, disrupt the coming of a Black Messiah."

A memo, released in late May under the Freedom of Information Act, was a communication by FBI assistant director Cartha DeLoach in 1964 stating that a certain civil rights leader whose name was deleted agreed to work with the FBI to "remove King from the national picture."

Shortly after this memo was released and publicized, the *Washington Post* leaked the name of Roy Wilkins, former NAACP executive secretary, as the civil rights leader referred to in the communications.

While Wilkins has denied these allegations, activists charge that the released memo is reminiscent of previously identified FBI dirty tricks most clearly associated with the FBI's infamous COINTELPRO program.

One prominent Black leader called the reports of Wilkins involvement a "diversionary tactic by the FBI" to hide its own implication, character assassination and "perhaps physical assassination of Dr. King."

Meanwhile, well-respected Black journalist Vernon Jarrett said, "The recent disclosures suggesting that Hoover did have the ear of a Black leader in a plot against Dr. King tempts even the most reserved to engage in a who-done-it game. You go down a long roster of potential candidates, matching their personalities with the little descriptive pieces offered in the FBI file exposed through the Freedom of Information Act.

"I have several objections to playing the game. Probably the strongest is that it will lead to paranoia. Sooner or later, every prominent Black who had entered or was about to enter the civil rights movement could become suspect. If that happens, I can see the enemies of Black progress laughing from their graves. And of course, those still alive who want to turn back the clock couldn't be happier."□

Government Attack Against Black Panther Party Stepped Up

(Oakland, Calif.) Once again, Huey P. Newton, highly respected founder and President of the Black Panther Party, has been targeted for attack by a coalition of local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

Working behind the same goals and intentions as outlined in FBI memorandums describing

Black Panther Party President, Huey P. Newton.

its vicious COINTELPRO program initiated in the mid 1960s, generally to discredit the Party in the oppressed black communities and in the eyes of progressive whites, police arrested the Party leader after an incident in Santa Cruz California.

Huey Newton is presently a student working towards a doctorate degree in History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Less than 24 hours after the arrest, news media in the Bay area and throughout the country reported false and distorted accounts of the circumstances surrounding the arrest, in an attempt to make it appear that Huey had provoked a brawl and gunfight in a Santa Cruz night spot.

Simultaneously, Alameda County Deputy district attorney Thomas Orloff branded Huey a "threat to public safety," and moved quickly to ensure that he was kept in jail. Orloff traveled to Santa Cruz and assisted Santa Cruz County district attorney Ralph Boroff in a successful argument for a bail increase from $25,000 to $50,000 for the Santa Cruz arrest.

Meanwhile he was busy in Alameda County superior court, where Huey is presently fighting murder and assault charges from 1974, arguing a motion to have the bail there increased from $80,000 to $200,000. The motion was only partially successful as Newton's bail was raised to $155,000. The additional $75,000 was raised and posted almost immediately, and Huey Newton remains free.

Observers close to the scene note that it is not coincidence but coordination and that the government's main strategy has always been to use arrests and high bails in a systematic effort to financially deplete and bankrupt the Party.

Noting the sustained drive of Bay area newspapers, and in particular the *Oakland Tribune*, to smear the Party, chief defense counsel Sheldon Otis recently commented, "The ghost of J. Edgar Hoover must be smiling today over the hysteria created in the city of Oakland by the incidents in Santa Cruz."

Spokespersons for the Party report that the smear campaign has failed to damage the Party's position with regard to the East Oakland Black community. The over 50 community programs operated by the Party continue to serve thousands of East Oakland residents on a weekly basis.

They also report that following the recent Santa Cruz incident the Central Headquarters of the Black Panther Party was besieged with telephone calls from across the country. Among the largest number of calls came from Huey's fellow students at UC Santa Cruz.□

Free sickle cell anemia testing sponsored by the Black Panther Party. The FBI campaign of phoney arrests and high bails is aimed at stopping the community programs.

Community Coalition Attacks Post Office Hiring Practices

(Chicago, Ill.) The affirmative action program of the United States Post Office here has become the focus of increasing criticism by the Latino community.

Carlos Quintanilla, a spokesperson for the West Town Concerned Citizens Coalition said, "We are challenging the affirmative action plan of the Post Office. Right now there are 16,272 employees, of which only 203 (1%) are Latino. According to the affirmative action plan, the percentage of Latino postal employees should be that of the percentage of Latinos to the entire population — 18 per cent."

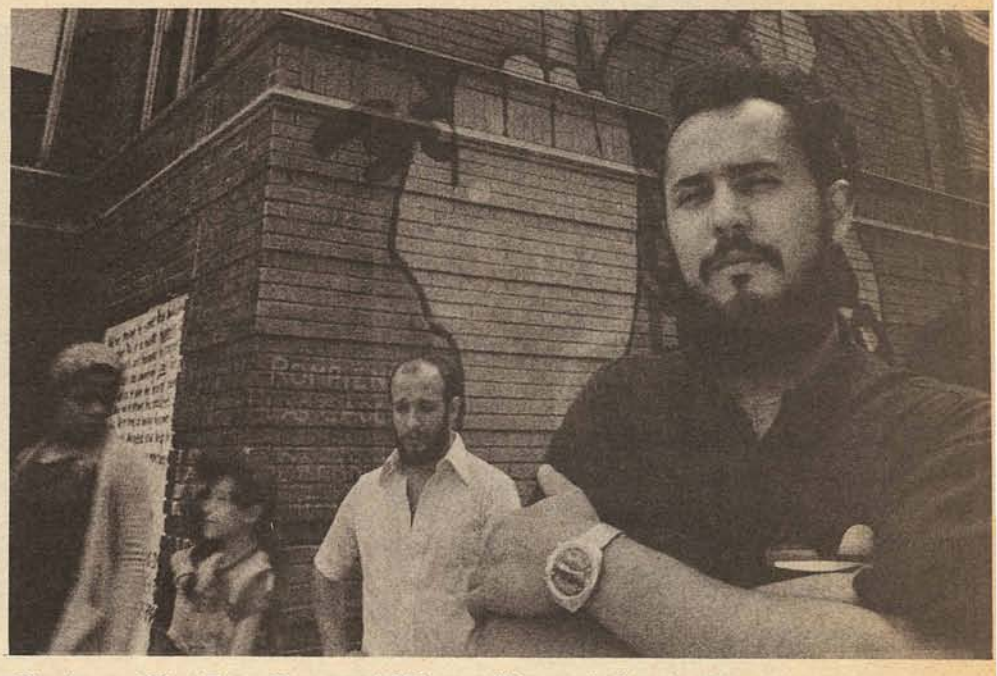
The struggle for jobs for Latinos in the Post Office began about a year ago. "We went all the way to Washington, D.C.," said Mr. Quintanilla, "and we were told there were no jobs. Now suddenly they have announced 1,250 job openings, and we weren't even notified."

The Post Office issued a press release on May 5 saying they had applications and would be accepting them from May 8-12. This was not publicized in the Latino communities. and the Spanish press, which comes out once a week, didn't receive the information in time to run it until 2 days before.

Supporters point out that without a sufficient pool of Latino applicants it will be virtually impossible to raise the percentage of Latinos hired to work at the post office. It is for this reason, they say, that the failure to timely publicize the dates for applications has come under attack.

"They have not given us the opportunity to apply, and unless they find a way to extend the deadline, again, the percent of Latino postal employees hired will be a very small percentage," said one activist.

A list of demands was presented by representatives of the Latino community during a meeting with Postmaster Frank Goldie. According to Mr. Quintanilla, "Goldie didn't want to meet with us, but when 200 people went down to the post office, he was forced to meet with a committee of five."



Members of West Town Concerned Citizens: "We are challenging the affirmative action plan of the Post Office."

The picture presented by the media of the issue has been that of a fight between Latinos and Blacks for the 1,250 jobs. Asked about this, Mr. Quintanilla replied, "By telling the press that we are trying to take jobs away from Blacks, Goldie is using cheap tactics to avoid the issue and have Latinos and Blacks fighting each other. We are challenging the affirmative action plan which is not being complied with. The issue is jobs for Latinos. It's not just Latinos that are unemployed, Blacks are faced with the same problem."

On June 2, representatives of the West Town Coalition met with Congressman Ralph Metcalfe. "The Congressman agreed to look into the possibility of conducting an investigation of the affirmative action program," said Quintanilla, "as well as giving us his support and trying to call a public hearing."

Meanwhile, it has been reported by the WBBM-TV editorial department that the 1,250 job openings are in reality non-existent in spite of the fact that more than 37,000 people filled out and returned employment applications within the post office's deadline.

"As it turns out, there isn't a single job available. And there won't be any for two years," charged Thomas Mitchell, WBBM-TV editorial director, on May 30. "Many of the job applicants were understandably angered to learn this. A coalition of community groups staged a mass demonstration at Postmaster Frank Goldie's home, demanding postal employment . . . our sympathy is clearly with the community coalition."□

Paul Skyhorse And Richard Mohawk Acquitted In FBI Frame-Up

(Los Angeles, Calif.) The third longest trial in the history of California has come to a close with the acquittal of Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk of the 1974 murder of a cabdriver in Ventura County, California.

Paul Skyhorse (left) and Richard Mohawk. Free, after 3½ years of false imprisonment.

The 11 month trial was believed by many to have been an unsuccessful frame-up attempt by the FBI, of Skyhorse and Mohawk, because of their active leadership in the American Indian Movement (AIM).

After their release from jail (where they have been held since 1974), Mohawk told supporters, "This is a people's verdict. Many have asked us if this means we think the system works. No, we don't think the system works. It was the people and the support they gave us that set us free. If the system worked we would have never been on trial. This was part of an ongoing conspiracy by the FBI to stop AIM and the overall Indian struggle."

Mohawk and Skyhorse faced the death penalty for charges they murdered cabdriver George Aird at a secret AIM encampment.

Marcie Eagle Staff, Holly Broussard and Marvin Redshirt were originally arrested at the scene of the murder, covered with blood and with a bloody knife in their possession. Shortly after, charges against them were dropped as they were granted immunity and set up with jobs and government loans. In exchange, they gave testimony against Skyhorse and Mohawk.

Defense witness Ramona Bland testified that for three months she had shared a Ventura County Jail cell with Marcie Eagle Staff, when Eagle Staff and her two companions were initially jailed for the crime. Eagle Staff, she testified, had told her that Redshirt stabbed the cabdriver. Never, she said, were Skyhawk or Mohawk mentioned during these early conversations.

Later, Bland testified, Eagle Staff told her she was going to testify that Skyhorse and Mohawk were the killers because the district attorney wanted to make a deal with her.

In the absence of the jury, Cruz Reyna, a Ventura County investigator, admitted that he had not looked into reports that Broussard and Eagle Staff had made statements to other inmates about the murder. Under defense questioning, Reyna admitted that these reports "should have been acted on immediately." It was, he agreed, "very important information."

But presiding Judge Floyd Dodson ruled that Reyna's testimony could not be presented to the jury. It was, he claimed, "irrelevant." Although Dodson permitted Virginia de Luce Wilson, an FBI informer in AIM, to testify at the trial, he continually crippled defense efforts to bring out the role of the FBI in the frame-up.

Mohawk explained that the support committee that had worked in their behalf will be redirected to aid other political prisoners. Both Skyhorse and Mohawk will continue to work on behalf of the Indian peoples' struggle for justice, he said.□

Intercommunal Perspective

Marcos Wins Rigged Election In Philippines

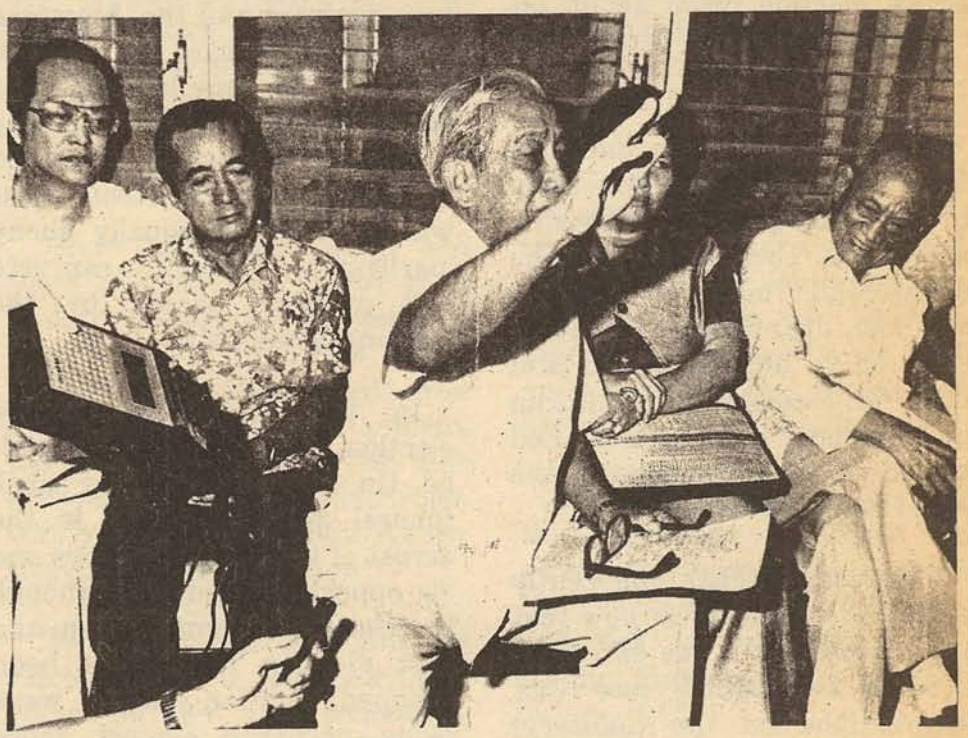
(Manila, Philippines) President Ferdinand Marcos' New Society Party swept the 165 elective positions to the interim National Assembly in the first election held in the Asian republic since the imposition of martial law in 1972. The elections were widely denounced as rigged both during and after the election campaign in massive demonstrations, held primarily in Manila, where the opposition party, the People's Power Movement (LABAN or "Fight") contested 21 seats. LABAN could have carried sixty per cent of the vote, according to pre-election random surveys, had not the election been characterized by massive voter fraud.

Examples of election day voter fraud and irregularities are numerous. Opposition pollwatchers by the hundreds were refused entry into polling places while New Society officials were let in without credentials. Some opposition pollwatchers were jailed for trying to see if ballot boxes were empty prior to the start of voting. Possibly as many as 200,000 "flying voters" were shuttled in from rural areas to Manila and voted in one precinct after another. Instant registrations took place on the day of the election adding thousands more votes for the Marcos regime candidates.

Voter fraud had been expected, especially given the intimidation, harassment, payoffs and terrorism which preceded the election. Opposition campaign rallies were disrupted by police and goon squads. School officials prevented students from passing out leaflets for LABAN candidates. Hand grenades, later found to be duds, were tossed into New Society rallies and blamed on the opposition. Arson was suspected as the cause of fires which left 800 families homeless in the Tondo section of Manila, well known as a hot bed of anti-martial law dissidents.

People's Power leader, former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr., was forced to campaign from prison, jailed on phony murder and subversion charges since the day martial law began. (See KEEP STRONG, Dec. 1977.) Aquino, who most likely would have been elected President in 1973 had not martial law been decreed, was the target of a mudslinging campaign charging him with being both a CIA agent and a communist, reports the *Philippine Times*.

Despite the campaign irregularities and mudslinging, support for the opposition grew to a climax on the eve of the election. Hundreds of thousands of Manila residents poured out on the streets at 9 p.m., not only to show their support for the People's Power Movement, but to protest martial law itself. The



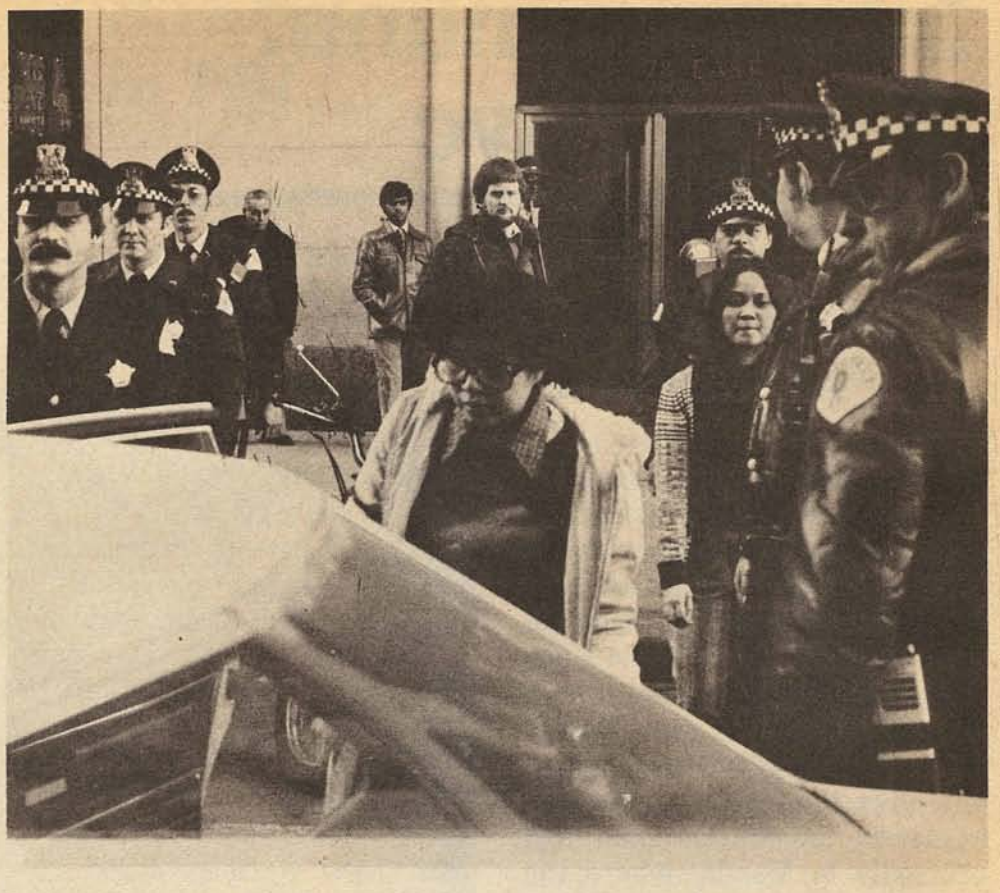
Ex-Senator Lorenzo Tanada speaking at a press conference announcing the platform of the opposition coalition candidates to the National Assembly of the Philippines.

demonstration, called the "noise offensive" and organized secretly through the circulation of a chain letter, was intended to last only a half hour but went well past midnight instead. Commuters honked their horns, housewives came out of their homes banging kitchen utensils, soldiers banged cans, restaurant patrons used their silverware, and even kitchen help joined their customers in chanting "LABAN."

Because the People's Power campaign was able to develop such massive public support in the midst of martial law, the opponents to the Marcos dictatorship do not look at the loss on election day as a defeat. In fact, from the start, the anti-martial law forces looked at the elections as a sham, a show to create the false impression that democracy was coming back to the Philippines. Prior to the election, the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines charged that the entire election came about because of pressure from the United States:

"In 1972, American imperialism needed a naked dictatorship to halt a fast-growing nationalist movement. To do so, it gave the dictatorship massive support; and the dictatorship, in turn, gave away unprecedented and illicit concessions to American multinational corporations, and bowed to other demands of the American government.

"Now that it has apparently attained its objectives; now that the concessions it has extracted need to be ratified; now that negotiations on the (military) bases and trade agreements are nearing completion; now that political succession has to be institutionalized to assure American business and the American military a climate of political stability, the time has come for naked dictatorship to give way to phony 'democracy' restored through phony 'elections' that will establish an equally phony 'parliament.' " (Marcos can veto any measure passed by the National Assembly.)



Five demonstrators were arrested in Chicago on May 13, after a sit-in at the Philippine consulate to protest the recent elections in the Philippines.

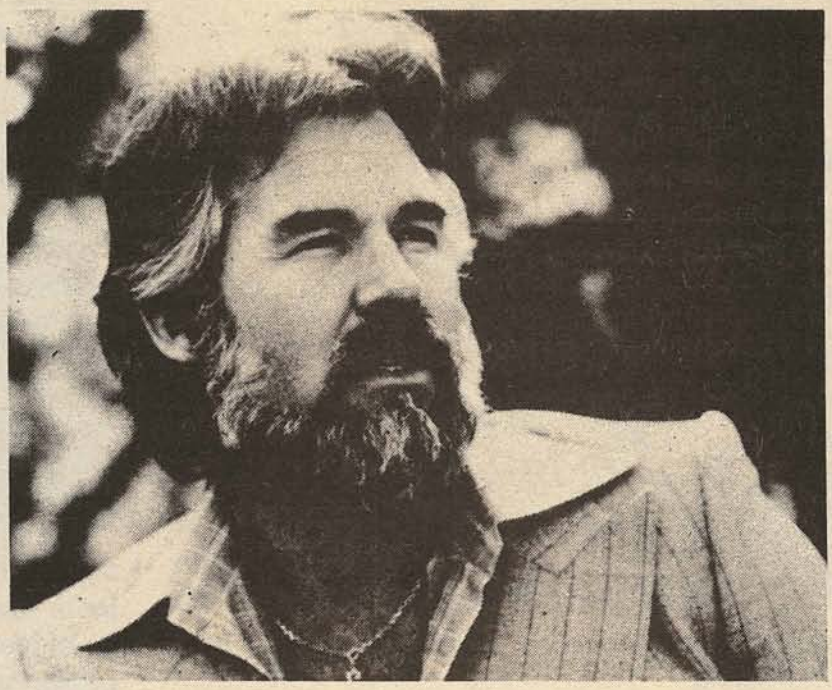
In the aftermath of the election, repression has escalated. On April 9, a massive mock funeral march resulted in the arrest of 600 demonstrators and six opposition leaders. Although the charges stemming from the post election rally have been dropped, sedition charges were being prepared against these leaders and several clergy members as of mid-May.

Meanwhile, demonstrations and sit-ins protesting the fraudulent elections and the post election repression were held at the Philippine consulates in eight U.S. cities, including Chicago, on April 13. Five of the 16 arrests during the sit-ins were in Chicago.

Local charges are most likely to be dropped against the Filipino demonstrators, according to Geline Avila, one of those charged in Chicago, and a leader in the Anti-Martial Law Coalition there. However, Ms. Avila pointed out, instructions have come from the Marcos government to its consulates in the U.S. to press federal charges on a rarely used law which prohibits disruption of foreign embassies or consulates.□

Entertainment

Kenny Rogers On Kenny Rogers



Well, it seems Kenny Rogers got country music's entertainer of the year award. And his album, *Kenny Rogers On Kenny Rogers*, got the best album of the year award. I don't mind.

Country music is going through a lot of changes, trying to reach a bigger audience. But people don't listen to hear just "the old songs again." It's coming to be that people want to hear what an artist has got to say. And there's quite a few who won't make it to the hearts of the people even if a record company pushes them up on the charts. Because they don't have too much to say. Kenny Rogers isn't one of them.

Don't you ever want to just sit down and say to somebody, "Tell me something real, buddy. It doesn't have to be fancy. It can be about ordinary people like you and me. But make it real, buddy."

There are some songs and some singers that make good background for doing something else. You don't have to listen. But when a singer tells you about running into this woman, Lucille, and this big farmer who are both at the end of their rope, why you have to listen. Kenny Rogers makes you listen.

He walks right up to you and starts in. He is confident he's going to tell you something you're going to listen to. He's not trying to please you, or sell you or buy you or do anything else to you but make you listen.

Maybe Kenny Rogers will make us pay attention to each other. Maybe we'll stop trying to sell ourselves or somebody else or something that is somebody else's lies. If we could just start from where we are, all of us together, then maybe we could get somewhere else, where life is better, on the real side.

Well so, good buddy, you are the entertainer of the year. And your new album is the album of the year. I don't mind. Sit down and tell me something real, Kenny Rogers. I like the way you do it.□

MOVIE REVIEW

"F.I.S.T."

Johnny Kovak (Sylvester Stallone) delivers a pep talk at a union rally in the movie "F.I.S.T."

There is a short scene in the first half hour of this movie that makes the point for the rest of the story.

It's Cleveland, Ohio in the last half of the 1930's. Johnny Kovak and his partner, Abe Belkin, fired from their last job in a produce warehouse for organizing a successful strike, are now full-time union organizers for the Federation of Interstate Truckers (F.I.S.T.) and in the midst of a much larger and longer strike. Behind Kovak's leadership the drivers of local 302 have struck Consolidated Trucking Company, one of the largest in Ohio. The strike has closed the company for weeks. A company goon squad has attacked the picket line at night, injuring many people and killing Mike Monahan, president of the local.

Johnny runs into his old buddy from the neighborhood, Vince Doyle, a small time but rising gangster, at Monahan's funeral. Johnny asks Vince to help the union break the company.

Now the battle is unfolding. The mobsters firebomb the scab trucks, one after another. This is just the beginning. The workers, armed with clubs, set up a phoney picket line to bring the company goons out. They have them outnumbered and outflanked, and the drivers cut them to ribbons. The Pinkertons bring out the guns and open fire. But the people are ready to deal. They fire back, forcing the company police back, and the drivers storm the gate. Once inside the Consolidated complex they tear the building apart.

The victory is sweet. The arrogant company bigshots have been forced to the table. New rights and benefits and a measure of respect have been won.

But the price is greater than the victory itself. To get the syndicate's help, Kovak has to give up a piece of the union. Doyle is installed as a union leader and close advisor to Kovak. The syndicate has traded a few pounds of muscle for partial control of the union.

Johnny Kovak starts out as a staunch dude. Early in the film he is beaten and stomped when he refuses an offer to leave the union and go to work for Consolidated. The beating doesn't slow him down a step, but only makes him fight harder. When he decided that the drivers cannot fight for themselves, he weakens the union and weakens himself. And this is what the movie is about. Many people believe that it is based on the life of Jimmy Hoffa, who helped build the International Brotherhood of Teamsters into the largest union in the world. Hoffa started, rose and ended in the same manner as Johnny Kovak, and he made the same mistake. He, too, relied on organized crime, outside muscle, to do his fighting for him. After they got in, the gangsters, who are basically businessmen, had more to say about how the union was run than the drivers did.

Sylvester Stallone, in his second motion picture, since the

"F.I.S.T." is the story of real working people who have to fight each and every day just to survive.

highly successful *Rocky*, is Johnny Kovak. His roots among oppressed people have given him the wisdom and courage necessary to build a very powerful fighting organization of working people. When he is young, his manner shows that he truly loves and respects the drivers and their families, and he is loved and respected by them. As he grows older, after he has turned again and again to the syndicate for help, his love and respect fade as his desperation to gain control of the union, keep control of it and stay alive, grows.

Melinda Dillon adds a very realistic dimension to the movie in her portrayal of Anna Kovak. She is courted by Johnny at the gates of the sweat shop glove factory where she works. It is clear from her quiet strength that the oppression in her early adulthood has left a strong imprint on her character. She has helped to build and give leadership to the union from behind the scenes.

Peter Boyle is Bill Graham, International President of the Federation, who comes on the scene early in the movie warning union members about the "threat of communist infiltration" and the dangers of striking against a big company like Consolidated Trucking. Years later Kovak and friends, after they have discovered Graham using union funds for his own profit, force him to retire from the union presidency and nominate Johnny Kovak, thus ensuring his election.

There are other important characters and actors in the film which give it a high degree of realism and educational and entertaining value. Rod Stieger, winner of numerous awards, is always a brilliant actor. Here again he is excellent as a crusading member of the Senate Rackets Committee, who is determined to knock organized crime out of the union and bring Johnny Kovak down.

F.I.S.T. is the story of real working people who have to fight each and every day just to survive. A powerful organization like a three million member union should give them the ability to take anyone on, and win.

It is fitting that Kovak's last negotiating session is for a nationwide contract where he gives up the right to strike and wildcat, the only weapon the drivers ever really had, for a few dollars pay increase, this by order of the businessmen who are now in control of the union.

There is a lesson here. No one is going to get justice for us but us.□

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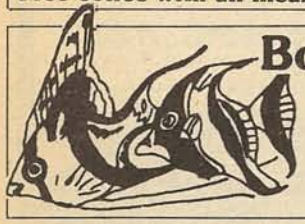

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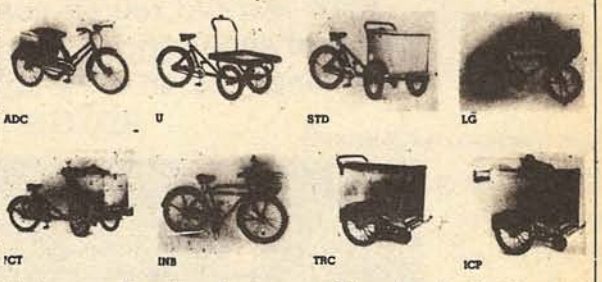

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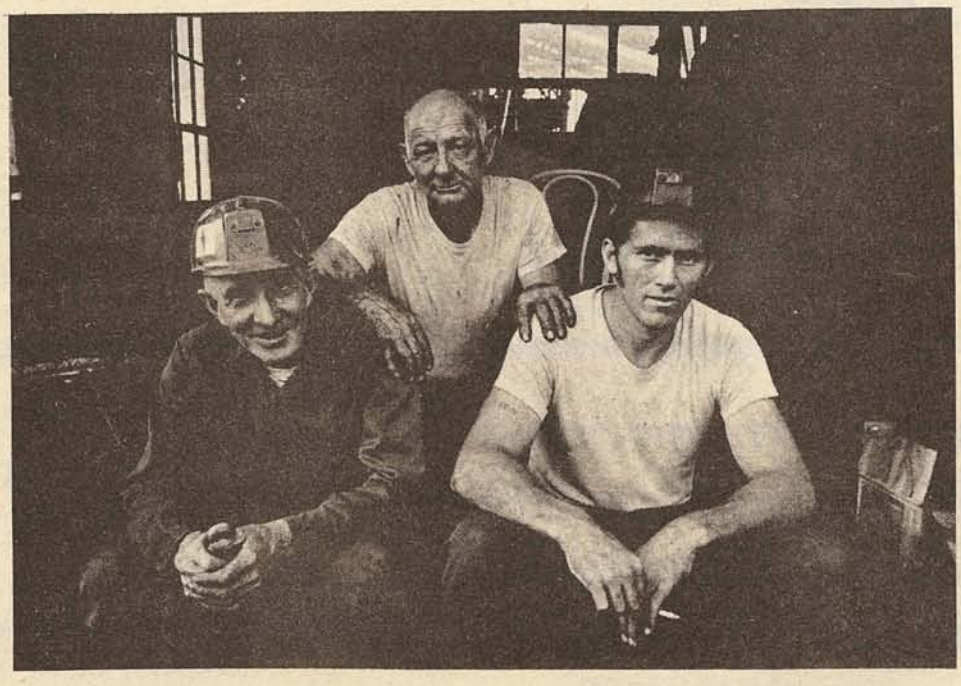

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